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THE TIMES

No. 65,176

SATURDAY JANUARY 28 1995

Way opens for compensation cases

Poll tax jail sentence is ruled illegal

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

AN unemployed man was wrongfully sent to prison for failing to pay his poll tax, according to the European Commission of Human Rights. In a test case that could cost the Government millions of pounds, the commission has ruled that he should be be paid compensation for wrongful imprisonment and that legal aid must in future be granted to anyone accused of failing to pay tax.

The case involved Stephen Benham, 29, who was sentenced to 30 days in jail by Poole magistrates in March 1991 for failing to pay £355 in poll tax. The court ruled that as Benham had given up his job after becoming eligible to pay poll tax in March 1990 and had not worked since "his failure to pay was due to his culpable neglect as he clearly had the potential to earn money".

Mr Benham had no legal representation in court because legal aid is not available to anyone accused of failure to pay tax. He spent 11 days in prison before being released on bail after he was granted legal aid under rules that allowed him to obtain a lawyer to require the magistrates to explain their reasons for jailing him. The case then went to appeal.

In October 1991 Lord Justice Nolan ruled in the Divisional Court that the magistrates' finding of culpable neglect was not born out by the evidence, and that the decision to commit him to prison was therefore wrong. By then Mr Benham's case had been adopted by Liberty, the civil rights pressure group, which took the case to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The commission's report will be examined by the Court of Human Rights later this year. The 18 members of the commission, which examines cases before they are put before the court, decided by large majorities that Britain was in breach of three paragraphs in two sections of the Convention of Human Rights.

The commission decided by a majority of 17 to one that it was a breach of the convention of human rights to have sent Mr Benham to prison for failure to pay the poll tax. By 15 votes to three it said that the deprivation of legal aid in this type of case was a violation of the convention, and by 12 to six that he should be paid compensation.

The court will review the commission's findings in the summer and is expected to give its final ruling by October. It would be unprecedented for the court to overturn a report agreed by such large majorities.

Mr Benham said last night: "I am delighted but not surprised by the commission's findings because I knew all along I was in the right. The commission justifies my belief that it is wrong to imprison someone just for being poor."

According to John Wadham, the Liberty solicitor representing Mr Benham, this means that legal aid will have to be extended to cover all those charged with failing to pay tax. "The magistrates in Poole really stretched a point. He was not politically against the poll tax but he just couldn't afford to pay it. The fact that he hadn't got a job could scarcely be construed as meaning he didn't intend to pay," Mr Wadham said.

About 20 similar poll tax cases have been referred to Strasbourg but there are at least 1,000 others on appeal before British courts. Although compensation in most cases is not expected to exceed £20,000, the future requirement to provide legal aid for this type of case will inevitably be expensive.

Magistrates have just been issued with guidelines by the Home Office telling them not to jail poll tax debtors. Despite more than 100 High Court rulings that it is unlawful to jail debtors who cannot afford to pay, the number of poll tax defaulters jailed by magistrates has been increasing steadily. The number of people jailed for non-payment of poll tax rose from 169 in 1992, the first year it was applied, to 1,202 last year.

Under the new guidelines magistrates will retain the power to imprison poll and council tax defaulters who can afford to pay or who are guilty of wilful neglect of their finances.

PAUL SANDERS

Martin Edwards, chairman of Manchester United, said that the club had acted to uphold its reputation

Cantona: faces world ban for rest of the year

Cantona is suspended by United and fined £20,000

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

ERIC CANTONA was suspended by Manchester United for the rest of the football season yesterday after his assault on a Crystal Palace supporter.

Although the absence of their leading goalscorer will damage United's chances of retaining the Premiership title and the FA Cup, the club said that it had acted to uphold its reputation and its "duty to do justice to the game". Cantona was fined two weeks' wages, estimated at £20,000.

The Football Association's disciplinary commission will meet in two weeks to consider Cantona's case. It is understood that a ban until the end of the year from all levels of football, possibly throughout the world, is now likely.

Martin Edwards, the United chairman, said the club had considered the possibility of sacking Cantona, who could also face criminal charges after the incident.

Crystal Palace yesterday banned Matthew Simmons, the 20-year-old supporter involved in the incident, from attending home matches for the rest of the season. Ron Noades, chairman, said: "We are telling him he has broken our ground regulations and cannot come to another match this season. He is a season-ticket holder, but that doesn't matter. He was up out of his seat and running down the aisle, which can't be allowed."

French despair, page 3
Simon Jenkins, and Diary, page 20
Letters, page 21
Peter Ball, page 48

Weekend forecast threatens floods and snow

By Emma Wilkins and James Landale

FLOOD alerts were issued on rivers in the southwest of England and Wales yesterday as travellers in the North braced themselves for further heavy snowfalls following the blizzards earlier this week in which at least six people died.

With milder air due to push north today, forecasters warned of the danger of flooding in the Midlands and North as snow melts on hills and swells rivers.

Poor weather forced Tony Blair, the Labour leader, to cancel the second stage of his regional tour to press for the end of Clause 4 of the party's constitution. Mr Blair cancelled a question-and-answer session in Leeds after police advised the public not to travel in blizzard conditions and heavy snow.

Ten of tomorrow's major football matches have already fallen foul of the weather and there will be morning inspections at a string of grounds. Race meetings at Uttoxeter and Doncaster have been called off, while heavy overnight rain puts Cheltenham in doubt. It all points to a possible repeat of last Saturday, when a string of rugby union and football games were washed out.

At Stansted airport, Essex, sleet fell for just over an hour yesterday, but flights were not affected. Falls of sleet and snow were reported at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire yesterday morning and in Birmingham. The snow had turned to rain by afternoon.

Driving conditions on the M27 in Hampshire were hazardous last night after heavy rain reduced visibility. On the

Continued on page 2, col 6

Forecast, page 24

Maths is called to the aid of those seeking a fortune

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

FOR those determined to find a mathematical pattern in their search for the National Lottery jackpot there is at least one certainty — if you choose popular numbers such as seven, you increase your chance of having to share the prize with others.

Is it better, then, to go for the nine numbers which have not so far come up: 1, 8, 18, 19, 24, 33, 34, 41, 45?

Or should you tick off those which have already appeared several times? The number 44, for example, has come up four times in the ten draws: 30 has appeared three times as a winning number and once as a bonus number; and 3, 5, 6, 16, 17, 31, 32 and 38 have all been drawn three times.

Staticians, numerologists and mathematicians are adamant that an analysis of the first ten draws provides no evidence that it is anything other than totally random. Simple mathematical common sense will tell you that each number has roughly a 14 per cent chance of coming up each week, regardless of how many people chose it and how many times it has appeared before.

But according to Dr George Coggan, a business consultant from Nottingham, some patterns are beginning to emerge. There appears, he says, to be a distinct link in people's choices: those who choose seven appear more likely also to go for 17. Those plumping for 14 may well take 44 too. In the seventh draw, when seven and 17 both came up, the jackpot was shared by 133 people.

"This phenomenon also occured in the first and ninth draws, and led to bitter disappointment because there were many more who matched five and six numbers in the draw than there should have been statistically. The prize money had to be shared," he said.

According to Sam Weren, editor of the *International Lottery Magazine*, research from Australia to be published on March 2 does seem to suggest that lottery results are not purely random. Analysis of 12 years of Australian Lotto draws by Aureole Electronic Research, a computing electronic research company based in Queensland, produced "horrendous" results, he said. Using a standard statistical test called the chi-squared method, Aureole found that 77 per cent of numbers drawn were not random, and that for the last two and a half years more than 95 per cent of draws have not been truly random.

"In simple terms, there has been a relationship between past draws and future draws," Mr Weren said. "Anybody wanting to improve their chances of winning could do so by following the trends."

Unfortunately, he added, "while the study was able to show it was not random, it was not able to say why. Nobody really knows."

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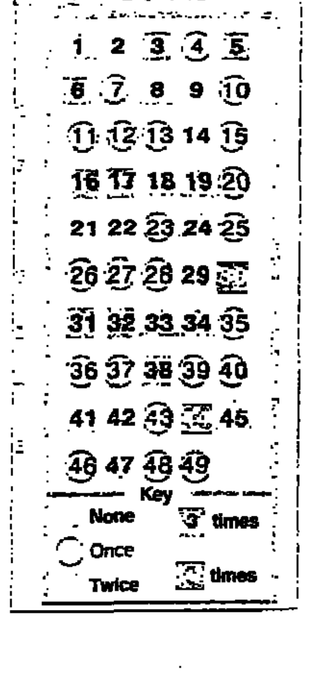
Weekend Money, page 29



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Ailing music maker pays £1m to chief

By Martin Barrow

AGEING rock stars are not the only multi-millionaires in the music industry. Yesterday Chrysalis, the stock market-quoted record company, disclosed that it paid its chairman and founder more than £1 million last year, despite losing more than three times as much and failing to pay a dividend to its shareholders.

Chris Wright, Bee-Gee lookalike and vintage of the love generation, was paid £1.02 million in the year ending August, including £425,000 for an agreement obliging him to stay at the company for five years. In the previous 12 months Mr Wright received £725,000.

The company's annual accounts, published yesterday, also disclose that Steve Lewis, former managing director of Virgin Music, was paid £336,000 when he joined Chrysalis on a five-year contract. In total, directors of Chrysalis received almost £3.1 million in basic pay, signing-on fees, and performance-related bonuses.

Last night Chrysalis stood by Mr Wright, saying that he had significantly reorganised the company after the disposal of its original record label to EMI Music. A new record label had been launched, two radio licences secured and interests in television expanded.

Successes last year included hits by Wet Wet Wet, the company said.

I'm setting the pace on Europe, Major insists

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR insisted yesterday that he was setting the pace on Britain's European policy as he sought to head off a new Cabinet rift over the Government's stance on next year's inter-governmental meeting on the future of the European Union.

In remarks reflecting the new and more Euro-sceptic tenor of government policy, the Prime Minister said that ministers were now following the lead he had given in recent weeks.

"What is emerging in the Cabinet is the position I set out in the Leiden speech some months ago and elaborated over the New Year period," he said. "That is bringing together the Conservative Party. There are very few people who don't feel in the mainstream of that particular view, and that does not include anyone in the Cabinet."

He dismissed as a "travesty" a report in later editions of *The Times* yesterday that Douglas Hurd had been rebuffed by his Cabinet colleagues on Thursday when he presented a paper setting out the Foreign Office's recommended approach towards the conference that will review the Maastricht Treaty. "I read with some surprise the reports in some of the later editions of the newspapers this morning. They were intriguing reading but I don't think they reflect what happened in Cabinet yesterday," he said on a tour of East Anglia.

Downing Street officials agreed that Mr Hurd's paper had drawn some criticism from Cabinet colleagues, but maintained that talk of a rebuff or outright rejection of the paper was extremely exaggerated and twisted.

Right-wing sources continued to insist, however, that Mr Hurd's paper had found little favour in the Cabinet's new and more sceptical climate. One source said: "It was a very standard, traditional Foreign Office paper that reflected the past rather than the present and the future.

"The basic line now is the Prime Minister's Leiden speech and the Frost interview. Everything has changed since Christmas. All the things that Major is saying have made him more popular, and he's feeling better than any time in the last 12 months. People are even laughing at his jokes."

Michael Heseltine letter, page 21

Labour leaders seized on the fresh evidence of Cabinet tensions to claim that the Mr Major was now in thrall to the nine whipless Tory rebels.

Mr Hurd joined the Prime Minister in seeking to play down suggestions that he was out of step with his Cabinet colleagues. By again declining to say whether or not he intended to stay on as Foreign Secretary through to the inter-governmental conference, however, he fuelled the uncertaintysurrounding his job. Right and Left are flexing their muscles for a possible

Continued on page 2, col 6

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Rail firms to be given freedom to cut services

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Transport Secretary, Brian Mawhinney, gave a warning yesterday that existing rail services could not be guaranteed after privatisation. In a speech in London to rail managers, Dr Mawhinney said that private sector *rail operators had to have the* freedom to make their own decisions on services.

He told the Association of Train Operators that it would be "disastrous" for passengers, taxpayers, and rail workers to "freeze" railway services at existing levels. "It would be *irrational, expensive and lead* to the inexorable decline of the passenger railway."

The Transport Secretary confirmed that the minimum service required after privatisation would involve less frequent trains on many lines. The Government hopes that the private sector will step in to provide improved services when it starts to auction lines next year.

The speech has increased concern among Tory backbenchers over the effect of privatisation on local rail services. Robert Hicks, MP for South East Cornwall, said he would be "anxious" if the minimum required number of trains was below the existing service. *"I had understood the* existing timetable is going to form the base line," he said.

Labour said the statement sounded a "deathknell" for many rail services. Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said privatisation would lead to a "minimum service". *He added:* "What operator in their right *mind would take the risk* of providing more than a bare minimum of service for which they will get no subsidy?"

Mr Meacher also released a leaked Tranport Department memorandum which, he said, showed the Government was in a "blind panic" over privatisation. The memo *asks* officials to provide Dr Mawhinney, *and John Watts, the minister* with responsibility for rail, with up-to-date information on the progress of privatisation. "In particular, they have asked for a weekly report on milestones reached, those missed and likely progress in the coming four weeks," the *memo states. It* urges that key figures involved in privatisation be *"given as much warning* as possible of any proposals that may hit the media".

Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, is due to announce on Tuesday the minimum number of trains that must run on four lines earmarked for an early sell-off: Gatwick Express, London Tilbury and Southend, Great Western, and South West. *He* is expected to set a require*ment below the current freq*uency on the Gatwick Express line and the South West service linking London with South Wales and the West Country.

The possible reduction in required services was attacked by the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, the rail passenger watchdog group. "If Mr Salmon does not specify the operating of a full service, then some operators *may choose not to run* a full one," Mike Patterson, its secretary, said.

Ferries take delayed tunnel travellers

HUNDREDS of motorists hoping to use the Channel Tunnel yesterday were transferred to ferries when half of the Eurotunnel passenger *fleet broke down.*

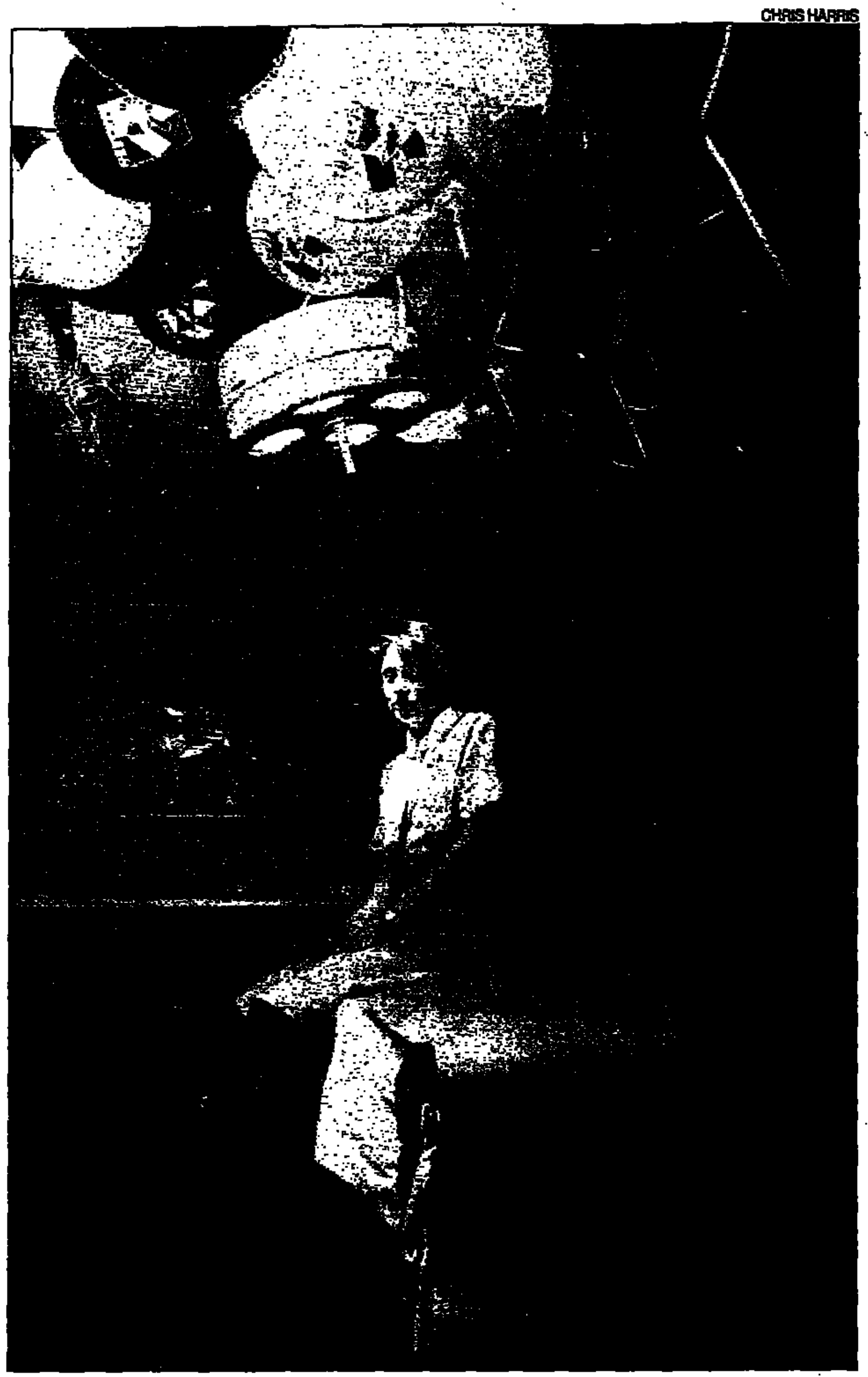
The failure of the two Eurotunnel trains near Folkestone caused huge delays on both sides of the Channel. Motorists arriving at Eurotunnel's terminal at Cheriton yesterday morning were given the choice of waiting up to *three hours* for space on the two Shuttles still *running or driving to Dover* to catch ferries operated by P&O.

Under a reciprocal agreement between the two companies, P&O has agreed to carry Eurotunnel passengers when trains break down, and by lunchtime nearly 400 cars and as many as 1,000 passengers, travelling in both directions, had been diverted to the ferries.

***P&O was quick to* capitalise on Eurotunnel's plight. On the 11am *Pride of Dover* sailing to Calais, Captain Terry Balfour made an announcement welcoming the Shuttle passengers: "We are delighted that you have upgraded to our ferry service."**

A Eurotunnel spokesman said the breakdown, due to a technical fault, had coincided with heavy bookings. *There* had, though, been a choice available.

CHRIS HARRIS



Nurse Sarah Slater on the last shift at St Bartholomew's casualty department

Wake at Bart's as casualty closes

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

THE oldest accident and emergency service in Britain closed last night after months of tears and protests. A man with a cut finger and a woman who had difficulty breathing were among the last casualties to be treated at the 870-year-old St Bartholomew's Hospital in the City of London.

On Monday, the accident and emergency department re-opens *as a minor injuries* unit for City workers. Staffed *by six nurses, it will bandage* ankles and stitch minor wounds. Ambulance cases, 11,000 of which were handled by the department last year, will go to the Homerton Hospital in the East End or to University College or Guy's hospitals.

A *spokeswoman said ten* patients had turned up for treatment yesterday and 53 the day before, three quarters with minor injuries. "So most of the patients who have been coming to Bart's casualty will be able to keep coming," she said.

Nurse Sarah Slater, who *is* going to Bath to retrain as a *midwife, sat* under a forest of gas-filled balloons, each printed with an axe, bought for today's wake for the department. More than 700 present and former staff are expected. "I am very sad to see the department closing," she said.

The gloom lifted slightly when two City stockbrokers arrived bearing a box of *chocolates. But by mid-after*noon, the candlelit vigil staged by campaigners was over. The flame of protest had fizzled out.

QE2 passengers sue Cunard

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A WRIT will be issued in the High Court in New York next week by passengers who staged a revolt on board the *QE2* during the liner's disastrous Christmas cruise.

Paul Edelman, one of America's *leading maritime law*yers, is issuing a "class action" *writ on behalf of the* 540 holidaymakers on the ill-fated voyage. Mr Edelman represented families of the victims of the Lockerbie air crash in their compensation claim against Pan-Am.

Cunard has been offering a free cruise to passengers if they agree to drop any legal action. John Olsen, the company chairman, admitted Cunard was wrong to set sail *from Southampton in Decem*ber before a £30 million refit had been completed. Passengers were forced to sleep on floors and flush their toilets with water from ice buckets. The new swimming pool was filled with builders refuse and spa baths were out of bounds because they were emitting unpleasant odours.

Mr Edelman will seek a *motion in* court compelling Cunard to release the passenger list from the cruise from Southampton to New York, which provoked a sit-in by 200 passengers outraged by the conditions on board. Each holidaymaker will be contacted and invited to join the legal action which will cost tens of thousands of dollars. Some *200 passengers who were left* on the quay in Southampton, *because their cabins were not* ready, will also be invited to join the action.

Hume nominated for peace prize

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICK WATT

EDWARD KENNEDY and three other senior American senators yesterday nominated John Hume, leader of Northern Ireland's Social and Democratic Party, for the Nobel peace prize.

In a letter to the Nobel committee, the senators called Mr Hume "one of the greatest apostles of non-violence of our time". Throughout the years of conflict in Northern Ireland he had "dedicated his life to achieving a peaceful, just and lasting settlement" and without his "extraordinary leadership" the present process of reconciliation would never have happened.

Concern in Dublin that pressure to free Private Lee Clegg *might derail the peace* process, larely set in motion by Mr Hume, was underlined yesterday when John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said that he has asked the British Government to provide details about Private Clegg.

Mr Bruton, who held his first formal meeting in Dublin *yesterday with Gerry Adams,* has called on the Anglo-Irish Secretariat near Belfast to provide him with a full briefing of the Clegg case. Clegg, a member of 3 Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, is serving a life sentence for murdering a teenager passenger in a joyrider's car in West Belfast in 1990. Dr Joe Hendron, *SDLP MP for West Belfast,* criticised the British Government after reports *that members* of the Cabinet wanted Clegg *to be released on* licence.

Bomber jailed, page 7

[redacted]

Tenant farms freed from death duties

Landowners are to be exempted *from inheritance* tax on tenanted farms in a move to encourage them to let more land to young people trying *to enter farming*. The change, announced yesterday by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, puts tenanted *farmland*, which previously incurred only 50 per cent tax relief, on a par with land where the owner has vacant *possession. From* September 1, 1995, both types of land can be passed between generations without death duties. *Mr Clarke said: "These* proposals will reverse the decline in lettings and help younger people without much capital *to take on farm* tenancies."

Salesmen disconnected

A service aimed at cutting off telephone salesmen was *unveiled yesterday* by BT. Under the Telephone Preference Service (TPS), customers can have their numbers removed *from* lists sold by marketing companies. To register for TPS, telephone users should either pick up a form from a BT shop or dial freephone 0800 398893 for information.

Policeman faces prison

A policeman *who punched* a *drunken* driver was warned by a judge that he faces up to five years in prison after being convicted of assault yesterday at Inner London Crown Court. PC James Kemp, 27, based at Reading, punched Stephen Hattam, 26, as he tried to run away after being stopped while twice over the drink-drive limit.

River death driver jailed

Philip Nicholson, 33, was jailed for six years for leaving a friend *to die in a car that overturned* in a river after a police chase. The court was told that Nicholson, from Skipwith, North Yorkshire, who admitted causing the death of Alan Thornton, 28, was well over the drink-drive limit. He ran away from the crash scene to try to evade a *breath* test.

Hunt saboteur guilty

A hunt saboteur was given a 12-month *conditional* discharge by magistrates in Hexham, Northumberland, after being *found guilty of aggravated trespass. Dermott* Morrow, 21, of Fenham, Tyne and Wear, was arrested for *carrying a whip as he ran* at hunt members during a meeting at Corbridge, Northumberland.

Ex-captain attacks MoD

A former Army captain who won only a fraction of her claim for £505,000 compensation after being dismissed for becoming pregnant, accused the *Ministry of Defence* of "extraordinary incompetence" yesterday. Abigail Kirby-Harris, 44, right, who was awarded £39,000, said: "I'm just one of many women who lost good careers because of the blatantly unlawful actions of the MoD."

Murder appeal denied

Sandra Wignall, 49, jailed for life for luring her husband Bob, 55, to his death at the hands of two hitmen in woods near their home in Addlestone, Surrey — where the couple went to feed foxes — was refused leave to appeal against her murder conviction. The court heard that Wignall had made a claim on her husband's insurance policy after his death.

Church fraudster jailed

A former church treasurer was jailed for nine months yesterday after pleading guilty to the theft of church funds. *Croydon Crown Court was told that Timothy* Lawson, 42, *of* Crayford, Kent, had forged a priest's signature on more *than 300 cheques, totalling £34,000. He used the money,* from St Paulinus church near his home, to pay bills.

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Snow and floods forecast

Continued from page 1

A31 at Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, floodwater slowed down traffic but the road remained passable.

In Sussex floodwater was reported on the A273 from Burgess Hill to Hassocks. In Berkshire the Burghfield to *Tadley road was under* more than a foot of water. Meadow Lane at Eton, Berkshire, was also badly flooded.

On Monday the weather will turn cold but dry due to northerly winds. Some coastal areas from Lincolnshire northwards, could see brief *snow falls or sleet. Cloud and* rain will sweep in from the west, affecting north Wales and the Pennines by Monday night and Tuesday, the London Weather Centre said.

Northern Europe was bracing itself for more torrential rain and widespread flooding *after a week which saw at least 17 people die as a result of the* freak weather conditions including winds of up to 130mph in Switzerland and a small tornado in the Black Forest.

The AA urged drivers in Britain who were planning to go away this weekend to make only essential journeys.

"If you must travel, telephone someone first to let them know you are *on your* way," a spokeswoman said. "Check your car thoroughly and pack a rug, a thermos of hot soup and a shovel in the boot."

Heavy rain was forecast for the West Country and west Wales yesterday. The National Rivers Authority issued a red alert — the highest level of danger — for flooding on the River Ewenny near Bridgend in mid Glamorgan. Red alerts were also in force on the rivers Ogmore and Llynfi. A red alert on the River Wye in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, was lowered *to amber yesterday.* Isolated properties and low-lying areas near the village of Lydbrook remain in danger of flooding, the NRA said.

In Yorkshire, where snow fell continuously for more than three hours yesterday, both outside lanes of the M62 were closed on Humberside. Police warned that snow had compacted and *turned to ice.*

In Essex, the body of an elderly man was found yesterday floating in flood water beside his car in Ongar. Police believe he either suffered a heart attack or drowned in the *fast-flowing* water.

In Northern Ireland, the main Belfast to *Derry* road was blocked in the Glenshane Pass by heavy snowfalls. One man died in a car crash on the M1 motorway near Lurgan, Co Armagh.

Major 'setting pace on EU'

Continued from page 1

succession battle in the summer. Many Tory MPs will see the latest criticism of Mr Hurd as an attempt by the Right to isolate him and have him replaced by a more Eurosceptic figure. One Cabinet member from the Left of the party said that Mr Hurd remained a "giant" among his colleagues.

In a BBC interview, Mr Hurd said that although the *Cabinet meeting had* been "perfectly satisfactory" from *his point of view,* his colleagues had come forward with additional proposals to be worked up in time for the initial set of negotiations in the second half of the year.

Asked if he would be replaced by a minister more in tune with Mr Major's more sceptical thinking, Mr Hurd said: "Those are 'ifs' I am not prepared to enter into. I have got work to do. I was given extra work to do yesterday, and I shall enjoy doing it. Every time I say anything on that point, people rush away to very dramatic conclusions."

Forming a united front with the Prime Minister, Mr Hurd said that Britain would have to be "hard-nosed" at the conference and echoed Mr *Major's calls for less interfer*ence from Brussels in domestic affairs.

He rejected the Right's claim that the Cabinet *had* shifted in a Euro-sceptic direction. "That only makes sense if it's supposed the Prime Minister and I are closet federalists longing to put more power into Brussels. Nobody who reads what the Prime Minister *and I have* been saying over the last two or three years could believe *that* there was any difference between us or that we are *secretly longing* to put a lot more power into Brussels."

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said the reported rebuff demonstrated the influence being wielded over the Government by the Tory MPs thrown out of the parliamentary party for defying the Prime Minister on Europe. "This shows the utter folly of subcontracting British foreign policy to a group of rebels who effectively want Britain to withdraw from Europe — which would be disastrous for British interests," he said.

Letters, page 21

Glenda Jackson portrays former Labour cabinet minister in BBC television biography

Letters reveal Barbara Castle's 'first great love'

By Andrew Pierce

LOVE letters written by Barbara Castle in the 1930s to the first great love of her life, a married journalist, are revealed on television for the first time tomorrow.

Glenda Jackson, the Oscar-winning actress, was tempted back to television for the first time since becoming a Labour MP in 1992 to read the letters from Baroness Castle and the late William Mellor, editor of the *Daily Herald* and founder of *Tribune*. The actor Nigel Davenport reads the letters from Mellor, who was Lady Castle's senior by 20 years. Their affair, which began in the 1930s, ended when he died during the Blitz.

Lady Castle's decision to release the letters was taken only after careful thought. "I don't want to talk about it but I am thrilled that Glenda Jackson is reading them," she said last night. The letters are included in *The Red Queen*, a biography of Lady Castle by Michael Cockerill on BBC2. She gave her full co-operation to Mr Cockerill, who has made similar programmes on Lords Callaghan, Healey and Parkinson and Alan Clark.

The programme discloses that Harold Wilson regularly flirted with Lady Castle. It also discusses her deep loathing for his successor, James Callaghan, and her admiration for

William Mellor, a married newspaper editor who died during the war, and Barbara Castle in 1934

Margaret Thatcher's leadership qualities. She places the blame for the coming of Thatcherism on Lord Wilson's shoulders. "It is my firm belief that if Harold Wilson had not resigned in 1976, Labour would not have lost the 1979 election." She campaigned for every Labour leader since Ramsay MacDonald and the programme brings her face to face with the only one she has never met: Tony Blair. She delivers a favourable verdict.

But it is the letters from Lady Castle, now 84, to Mellor which form the most moving part of the 50-minute film. She says: "He was the great love of my life. How different he was from Rudolph Valentino but in my view he was a much more handsome man: strong features with eyes that looked at you with honesty."

A letter to her mother talks of the joy of a rare holiday with Mellor. "We had such a happy week. It was painfully short but it did us good. William has been magnificent." She wrote to Mellor's mother immediately after his death: "Mom darling, when William died on Wednesday I hadn't seen or spoken to him for five days. When I saw him the previous week I knew I was helpless to do anything for him. So I told him, 'I'm not going to see you again until you are stronger. That's not because I don't want to but because I love you.' He smiled and nodded and we were as near as anything on earth could make us all those five days although I never spoke to him again."

She talks movingly of her 34-year marriage to Ted Castle, a *Daily Mirror* journalist whom she married in 1944, and of how she fought off Lord Wilson's advances. "Everyone thought I must be his mistress. But there was never really any serious attempt to seduce me."

Lady Castle considered keeping the letters secret. "But at my time of life you don't worry too much about these things"

The documentary shows rare footage of Lady Castle in the 1940s and a memorable conversation in 1947 with Lord Wilson, who had just joined the Cabinet. He is seen lecturing her and other women to wear shorter skirts because of clothes rationing.

The film takes her back to Bradford Grammar School for Girls and includes an interview with Sir Bernard Ingham, her press secretary when she was Employment Secretary and introduced the policy paper *In Place of Strife*, which provoked such warfare with the trade unions. Sir Bernard compares working with Lady Castle, who was once tipped to be Britain's first woman Prime Minister, with Lady Thatcher. Mr Cockerill has unearthed unshown footage of the two women on a television programme in 1962 discussing "What's wrong with men".

The programme reveals her heartbreak at never having children and how she resorted to injections of serum from pregnant mares. Nature, she and her husband decided, must take its course. She recalls that her husband told her: "I'm sick of making love to a jam jar." She replied: "I'm fed up with mares, even if they are a good pedigree."

Lady Castle said last night: "Perhaps I should never have let them see William's letters. But at my time of life you don't worry too much about these things. It has been a good life. People always ask if I was disappointed not to become Prime Minister. I've never had time to think about it."

Coroner blames Koresh for cult Britons' deaths

By Kate Alderson

THE deaths of 23 Britons in the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, must be laid at the door of David Koresh, the cult leader, a coroner said yesterday as he recorded 22 open verdicts and one of unlawful killing.

Leonard Gorodkin, addressing a courtroom packed with relatives of victims aged from six to 60, said that despite the actions of the American authorities, Koresh could have saved his followers.

"I believe all the deaths that occurred on April 19 were his decision and must be laid at his door, and despite what went on outside he could have saved them," he said at the end of a five-day hearing in Manchester. "It was as a result of his personality and his hold over those people that they died on that day."

The compound building had been set on fire deliberately. "I believe it would be distorting the facts to consider any reason other than the intention was to burn down the building and everyone inside it. I firmly believe only one person could have made that decision to set fire and burn the building and the people and that was David Koresh. Had the intention only been to burn the building, people would have been sent out first."

Mr Gorodkin rejected the theory that a mass suicide pact had been undertaken by the cult followers, but added: "Although I might consider it unlikely they agreed, it is impossible for me or anyone else to know whether they agreed or not."

Of the 23 Britons, Melissa Morrison, six, from Manchester, was ruled to have been unlawfully killed because her age meant she could not possibly have consented to what was happening.

Winston Blake, 27, from Nottingham, the only Briton to die in the initial raid on the compound on February 28, was shot at close range in his room in the compound. An open verdict had to be recorded as it was impossible to say how it happened. The coroner said that the first raid by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had been "badly planned, ill-conceived and doomed to failure".

Yates: led 18-month British investigation

The inquest had been told that all the other victims died from the effects of inhaling smoke in the fire that swept through the compound seven weeks later.

The British inquiry into the Waco siege and fire, led by Detective Chief Inspector Albert Yates, had involved 20 officers and 10,000 man hours. Mr Gorodkin said it was one of the most comprehensive foreign inquests he had ever presided over. British relatives had perhaps heard more information than those who lived near Waco.

After the verdicts, Geoffrey Sellors, from Nottingham, whose 33-year-old son Clifford was killed, said the hearing had put his mind at rest: "It has given answers to some of the things we queried and has helped us a little."

Paul Horslen, the brother-in-law of Winston Blake, who died in the first raid, said: "We came here to find out who shot Winston and why. We still haven't answered those questions. Only when justice has been served can we really recover from the grief that we feel. Today's verdict hasn't really taken us much further forward but the information was helpful."

French press despair over 'James Dean of football'

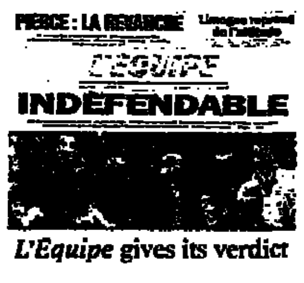
From Charles Bremner in Paris

ERIC CANTONA won no sympathy yesterday from a French press which deplored "the shame" that the Marseilles-born footballer had brought upon himself and French football.

"Indefendable," shrieked the banner headline in *L'Equipe*, the sports daily that is France's top-selling newspaper. "Eric Cantona's Battle of Trafalgar," said another. "Voilà, it's happened," said *L'Equipe*, sounding the note of inevitability that was common to all comment. "We knew everything would end in tears and anger. We had such a clear image of this ineluctable exit that we are ashamed today for those who dared, a year ago, to entrust him with the arm band of the captain of France."

France Soir, the nearest thing to a tabloid, said the British press sneered at the French as eaters of frogs' legs but loved Cantona nonetheless. "They were entertained by his sulphurous reputation and flattered themselves they knew how to contain it," the paper said.

"In his own way, Cantona has avenged if not Joan of Arc, at least the national honour." *France Soir* also lamented how France had corrupted the "James Dean of football" by indulging his bad behaviour. "Worshipped and covered in incense, the more his paranoia grew, the more his admirers revelled in it … Can we ask a favour of the English who have been tormenting us for so long? Please keep him!"



PIERCE : LA REVANCHE
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INDEFENDABLE

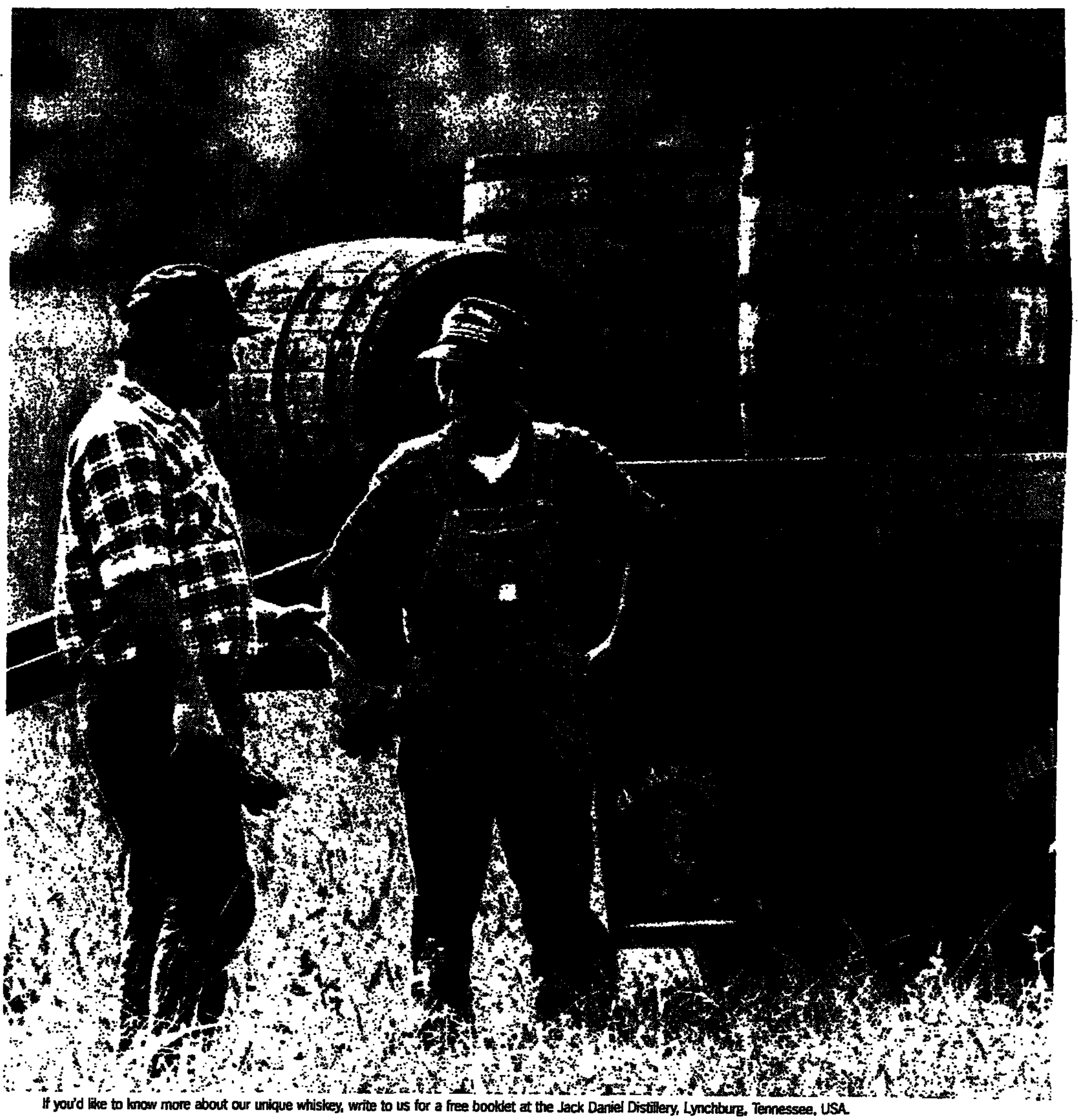
L'Equipe gives its verdict

In similar vein, *Le Monde* applied to Cantona the English word "hooligan", saying he fed British stereotypes about French sportsmen. "We knew he was and remains the anti-model to offer the children of the football schools. And knowing all that … we made him captain of the French side. In its many excesses, French football has the captain it deserves."

Marseilles is a footballing city, passionately proud of its team, Olympique, for which Cantona's brother Joel plays. But it has long tired of the antics of its prodigal son. "Nothing surprises us from Eric Cantona any longer," Alain Pecheral writes in *Le Provençal*, a local paper. "Truly, we are no longer interested in his escapades, his pseudo-philosophical bragging, his crudeness and the state of his soul."

In Britain, *The Sun* interviewed the fan involved in the attack. Matthew Simmons insisted his taunt was nothing more abrasive than: "Off you go, Cantona — it's an early shower for you." The paper conceded that most within earshot believed that what was actually said was: "You French b******, f*** off back to France," accompanied by an obscene gesture.

Cantona ban, page 1
Simon Jenkins, page 20
Diary page 20
Letters, page 21
Peter Ball, page 48



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

'We love you OJ'

"Hi! I am 12 years old and I am a fan of yours. I don't think you killed Nicole or Ronald. Even if you did, I would still be your fan and so would my Mom because everyone makes mistakes . . ." Since his arrest last June.

O J Simpson has received more than 300,000 letters from fans, many of them children. Most can't believe he committed murder; others say that if he did he was justified.

Read what ordinary Americans feel about the trial of their hero — in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

Dorrell says owners should stop seeing homes as investment

By Arthur Leathley

HOMEOWNERS should not look on their houses as investments or rely on rising property prices to revive the "feel-good factor", the Heritage Secretary said yesterday. Stephen Dorrell called on householders to abandon past expectations as he pressed for a change in outlook towards home ownership.

He directly contradicted the repeated assertion of Baroness Thatcher that home ownership was an important investment. He said: "Houses are for living in. Investment advice is for stockbrokers."

Mr Dorrell told businessmen in Leeds that stable house prices were critical in the battle against inflation and he denied that stability discouraged people from owning their own homes. "In fact it encourages families to plan their own future and take greater responsibility for their lives." He acknowledged that his approach "challenges everything we have been taught about housing", adding that, since the 1960s, people had been told to "borrow up to the hilt" to step on to the housing ladder.

Dorrell: houses for living, not investing

Mr Dorrell, a former Treasury minister, also said that continuing low inflation would end the annual round of wage bargaining, insisting that, with inflation under control, pay rises would be needed only to reflect increased productivity. "If the absence of inflation serves to concentrate attention on the umbilical cord which connects productivity to living standards, that alone is sufficient reason for regarding it as a paramount objective of policy."

John Major gave an upbeat assessment of the economy when he met businessmen during a tour of Suffolk yesterday. He said that half a million people had found jobs in the past couple of years. "This is going to continue. We are going to see significant growth next year. From the beginning of last year to the end of 1996, we are likely to see 10 per cent growth in the British economy, which is a sharp change from what we have seen before."

He outlined a vision of Britain as "the most competitive country in western Europe" and said his aim was to continue significant growth in a low inflation economy.

Hidden home costs, Weekend, page 17

ROBIN MAYES

Members of the group Sweet Harmony in 18th-century dress sound a serenade on the anniversary yesterday of Mozart's birth. They are in front of the composer's statue in Pimlico, London, which was unveiled last year

Subaru win in Mytholmroyd, Morpeth and Monte Carlo.

The Subaru Impreza 555 rallies on PIRELLI

Hot on the heels of their RAC Rally victory, Subaru now triumph in Monte Carlo. Over ice, snow and treacherous terrain, Carlos Sainz powered his Subaru Impreza 555 to victory in the world's most famous rally. Whilst back home, other Subaru drivers triumphed with another gripping performance in the heavy snow that brought the North to a standstill. As lesser vehicles floundered, the tenacious roadholding of Subaru 4WD conquered the elements with confidence. Proving yet again that Subaru performance, build strength and reliability are more than a match for the toughest roads and roughest rallies on Earth – as well as the worst of British weather. Call 0753 696200, and learn more about Subaru – winners in Mytholmroyd, Morpeth and Monte Carlo. SUBARU

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MPs back outdoor activity controls

By Jonathan Prynn

MPs gave their backing yesterday to new controls for Britain's 3,000 outdoor activity centres. A Bill from a backbench Labour MP that will require compulsory registration of centres offering activities such as climbing, caving and canoeing for under 18s was given an unopposed second reading.

Eric Forth, the Education Minister, told the Commons that the Government supported the Bill, which has all-party backing, "in principle". The Bill is likely to enjoy a smooth passage through Parliament with the Government behind it.

David Jamieson, (Plymouth Devonport), who introduced the Activity Centres (Young Persons' Safety) Bill, said there were currently no legal minimum standards of safety at activity centres.

"If we send our dog to a boarding kennel, we can be assured that it is registered, meeting minimum high standards," he said. "Yet if we send our child to an activity centre, there is no requirement to register."

Four children from a school in Mr Jamieson's constituency died in the Lyme Bay tragedy in 1993 during a canoeing expedition.

Mr Jamieson said his Bill would raise safety standards at places that offered adventure training facilities for youngsters. "If the procedures had been in place in 1993 then four children would not have lost their lives," he said.

Minister takes veal battle to Europe

By Michael Hornsby

BRITAIN embarks this weekend on a Europe-wide campaign to canvass support for a ban on the "veal crate" method of rearing calves, which has been prohibited in Britain since 1990 but is still allowed under European Union law.

Angela Browning, a junior Agriculture Minister, will meet her German counterpart, Dr Franz-Josef Feiter, in Cologne on Sunday evening, and will be in Austria on February 5 and 6. Over the following weeks, she or other Agriculture Ministry officials plan to visit every member state in the EU to press the British case.

The aim is to build on the broad support for abolition of veal crates which William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, claimed to have found at a meeting of EU farm ministers in Brussels on January 23. As result of that meeting, the EU's Scientific and Veterinary Committee has been asked to start work at once on a review of EU legislation on veal crates. The EU law had not been due for review until October, 1997, and, as it stands, would allow the crates to be used until at least 2004.

Mr Waldegrave is trying to head off demands from the Opposition, Euro-rebels within his own party and animal welfare campaigners for a unilateral ban on the export of British calves to countries using the crate system. He says this would be illegal and expose the Government to huge claims for damages.

Judge says rapist had 'amber light'

By Kathryn Knight

A JUDGE who jailed a rapist for 2½ years has caused anger after suggesting that the victim gave the man an "amber light" by wearing a calf-length dressing gown in front of him.

Paul Campbell, 30, was jailed at Carlisle Crown Court on Monday after he admitted raping the 21-year-old. He may be free by November because of the time he has already spent in prison.

Judge Bell told Campbell: "I regard her invitation to come to her bedroom when she was scantily clad, as opposed to asking you to wait downstairs until she was more suitably dressed, as an amber light."

The court heard that Campbell, of Carlisle, had visited the victim twice at her home but they had never had sex. When he called for the third time last July, she had just had a bath and was in a dressing gown. She invited him in to watch television in the bedroom.

Campbell tried to kiss her and then pinned her to the bed and raped her. He warned her not to report the incident.

Afterwards, the victim who, in taking the case to court had ignored threats from local people, said the judge had not taken the case seriously. "It was a disgraceful thing to say. I was disgusted and disappointed. I went through a terrifying ordeal. I was not interested in Campbell at all. I didn't behave in any suggestive way. If shouting for him to get off and get out of my house isn't saying 'No', then what is?"

Bell: disappointed police and victim

Detective Inspector Bob Bacon, of Carlisle police, said: "We were very, very disappointed with the sentence and some of the comments." The victim had been "very brave to come to court, it takes guts to go through with it", he said.

Cumbria Rape Crisis said that comments like the judge's deterred victims from reporting rape. "Such comments reinforce the myth that women 'ask for it' by the way they dress. It is difficult enough for women to report that they have been raped without being held partly to blame."

Dying victims 'screamed and screamed' after man set alight house he shared

Neighbour jailed for killing women in row over noise

By Kathryn Knight

A NEIGHBOUR was jailed for nine years yesterday for killing two young women in a fire he started after they complained about noise.

Relatives of the women wept as Enda Doyle, 29, from Wembley, north London, who had denied two charges of murder, was found guilty at the Old Bailey on two counts of manslaughter.

Geraldine King and Amanda Lofting, both 22 and lifelong friends, were burnt beyond recognition after Doyle set fire to the house after he became angry at their requests to be quieter. One witness, who saw the girls screaming at a window, told the jury that they were like "two burning ghosts". Doyle escaped unhurt.

The court was told how "an argument ended in tragedy" on the May Bank Holiday last year after Miss King, a secretary, and Miss Lofting, a hairdresser, complained to Doyle that they could not sleep because of noise in his flat below them. The women had returned to the flat after visiting a fair and Miss Lofting, who lived with her parents in Hertfordshire, decided to stay the night. However, they could not sleep because Doyle, a painter and decorator who came to England from Ireland in 1987, was making too much noise.

Doyle: fled unhurt as women were killed

Rosina Hare, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that Doyle had been drinking with his girlfriend. "He was being a nuisance, running up and down the stairs, turning the volume of his television up and making a noise banging the doors." Miss King had called down to Doyle saying: "Stop the noise, as some people have to work tomorrow." It was to become an argument that ended in tragedy, Ms Hare added.

Doyle ignored the complaints and became infuriated. He started a blaze using an unknown flammable substance, creating a fireball so hot that the glass in the windows melted. The girls were trapped on the first floor and left with no chance of escape.

Three neighbours told the court of the screams of the girls as they realised they were going to burn to death. "They screamed and screamed and then it all went quiet," one said. Another told how she saw Miss King lying at the top of the stairs with her hair hanging over the banisters. The fire brigade and police were called but arrived too late. The remains of the two women were found in the ashes of the flat. Miss Hare said the victims had been "two pretty women, full of vitality, who enjoyed life". They died from asphyxiation and burning.

Witnesses saw Amanda Lofting, left, and Geraldine King trapped at a window like "burning ghosts"

Judge Smedley, QC, told Doyle that his excessive drinking had turned his thoughts to violence and that he deliberately set fire to his room. Although nobody would know exactly what triggered his rage, the results were "horrendous".

"Two ordinary young women, who had been out for a happy and convivial day on Bank Holiday, had returned home at 8.30pm and by 11 o'clock, because of your deliberate action, were both dead."

Outside the court, Detective Superintendant Duncan MacRae, who led the investigation, said it was a tragic waste of life. "They had everything to live for and were at the threshold of their lives. They should have been looking forward to setting up their own homes and suddenly it was snatched away from them. They were so young."

Sandra French, the mother of Miss Lofting, said the death of her daughter was a "terrible tragedy". She added: "Not only has this man denied them a long and happy life. He has without care or consideration destroyed the entire lives of loved ones and anyone who came in to contact with Geraldine and Mandy."

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

The dream final: Pete Sampras v Andre Agassi in the 11-page *Times Sport*, on **Monday**

How to have a luxury weekend away for 20p, details on **Tuesday**

The ultimate wardrobe, from *Paris*, on **Wednesday**

Geoff Brown on *Leon* and other new films, on **Thursday**

The Bernard Levin column and the Valerie Grove interview, on **Friday**

Palace denies involvement in royal aide blackmail case

By Alan Hamilton

BUCKINGHAM Palace distanced itself yesterday from the case of John Kennedy, private secretary to Prince Michael of Kent, who is at the centre of a police investigation into an alleged blackmail attempt.

Mr Kennedy, 29, who has worked for the Prince since January last year, was arrested and questioned by officers last month in connection with a case involving the family of the late King Idris el-Senussi, the former monarch of Libya deposed by Colonel Gaddafi in a military coup in 1969. Mr Kennedy was released on police bail pending further inquiries.

Kennedy: no question of his resignation

The Prince, who is on holiday in America, was also interviewed by police. Palace officials dismissed reports that the Queen had become involved in the police questioning of Mr Kennedy.

"It is complete nonsense to say that the Queen's permission was requested to question or arrest anyone in these circumstances; such cases are entirely in the hands of, and at the discretion of, the police," a Palace spokesman said.

Mr Kennedy was not employed by the Royal Household but had a private contract with the Prince, a cousin of the Queen who was not on the Civil List but funded from private royal resources, the palace added.

On Thursday Mr Kennedy issued a statement, apparently approved by the Prince, denying the allegations and insisting that there was no question of his resignation from his post. The statement claimed to have the full support of the Prince.

Mr Kennedy was arrested and questioned along with Anthony Bailey, a London public relations consultant and adviser to the el-Senussi family. Neither was available for comment yesterday.

Lawyers acting for them said they had "grave concerns" over the motivation of Idris el-Senussi, a member of the former Libyan royal family who took the allegations to British police. They would "vigorously contest" the claims, he said.

In a separate statement Crown Prince Muhammad el-Senussi, pretender to the Libyan throne, disassociated himself from the actions of his distant cousin.

Mr Kennedy was accused by a Labour MP yesterday of having been a spokesman for Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader. Mr Kennedy, born John Gvozdenovic, is believed to be distantly related to Crown Prince Alexander, one of several pretenders to the throne of the former Yugoslavia.

Andrew MacKinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, said Mr Kennedy had once worked as a research assistant for Henry Bellingham MP, parliamentary private secretary to Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary.

He called for an immediate government statement on the "acute conflict of interest" of having a researcher with Bosnian Serb connections advising Mr Rifkind. Mr Bellingham dismissed the claim as absurd, saying Mr Kennedy had been chairman of the Conservative Council on Eastern Europe between 1988 and 1993 but had then stood down and had not been involved in any further Commons work.

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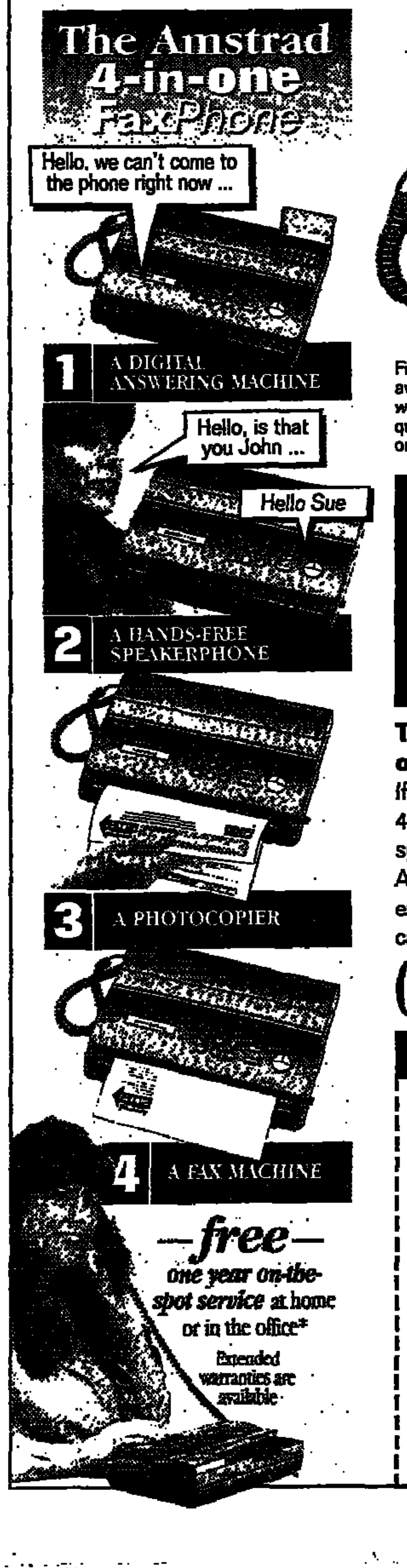
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UN report accuses Britain over right to smack children

By Robin Barnwell

A UNITED Nations committee attacked Britain yesterday for defending the right of parents to smack their offspring and accused the Government of failing to improve children's health, education and living standards.

The attack came in a report from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which recommended that physical punishment of children in families and in public schools be prohibited by law. The committee said physical punishment of children was banned by an international convention signed by Britain.

The report criticised the Government's record, attitude and policy to children's rights since it became a signatory of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. It expressed concern at the low age of criminal responsibility in England and Scotland, the use of secure training centres for 12 to 14-year-olds and the continued harassment of children by the security forces in Northern Ireland.

The Health Department said: "This is a detailed report that covers legal matters across the whole of government and will be studied very carefully."

The report said the use of secure training centres for children between 12 to 14 was against articles 37 and 40 of the convention, which calls upon governments to use imprisonment only as a last resort. Concerns were also expressed over high divorce rates, cuts in state benefits and the number of children sleeping and begging on the streets.

Thomas Hammarberg of the committee said yesterday that British policy was "the remnants of outdated thinking" and that it had a disturbing policy of locking up young children.

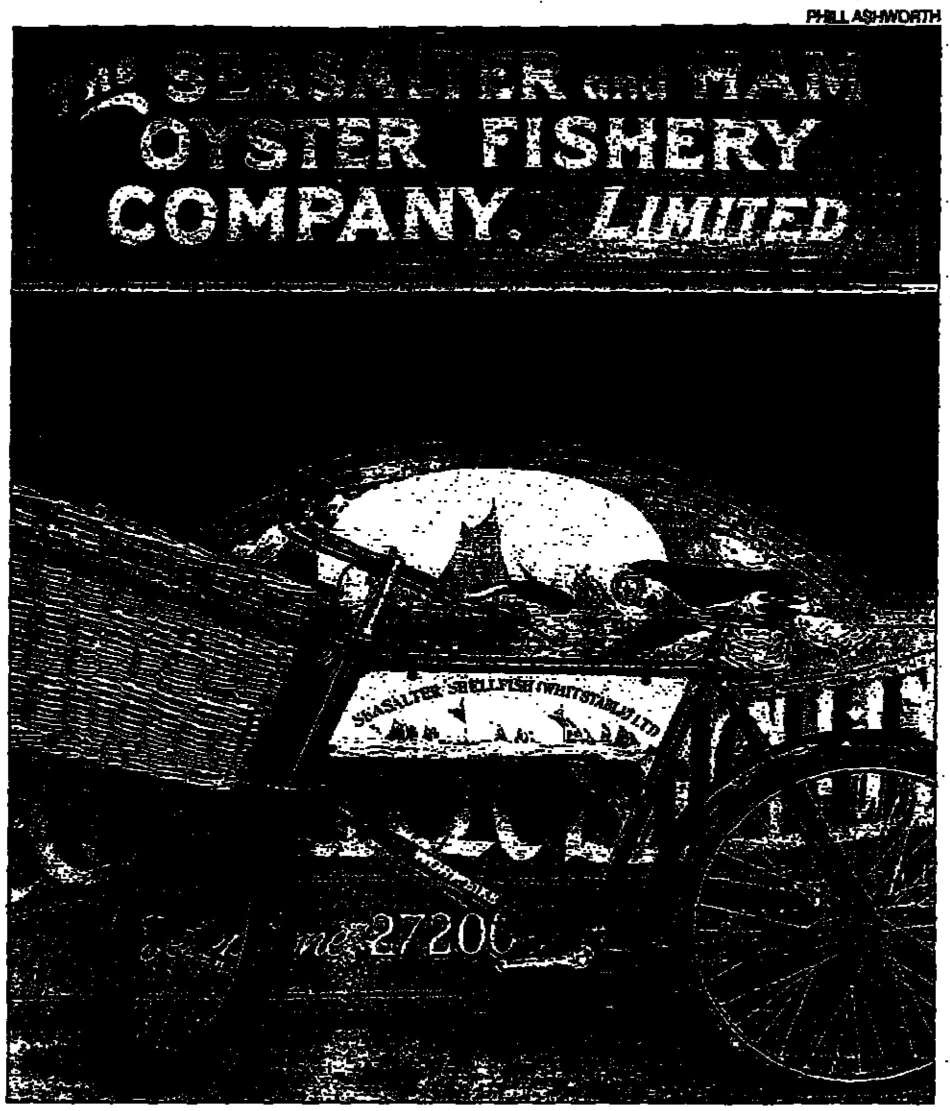
Speaking at a conference in London on children and crime, he said the imprisonment of children was against the convention and that welfare rather than punitive measures should be followed.

The report, the first since Britain ratified the convention, is the product of a week of questioning of British officials in Geneva by the committee. The Government's failure to mention the growing level of child poverty and homelessness is seen as part of its overall policy failure.

Frances Crook, director of the Howard League, welcomed the report. She said: "The British Government should be ashamed of the condemnation."

The convention has been signed by 169 countries since its inception in 1989, making it the most successful human rights convention. However, the reports' recommendations are not binding and there is no international body to ensure that governments comply. Only 32 countries have so far taken the committee's conclusions seriously.

PHILL ASHWORTH



Seasalter Shellfish: only company breeding native oysters in hatcheries

Fresh hope for gourmets

Breeders plan return of the native oyster

By Marianne Darch

BRITISH oystermen are promising a revival of the native oyster, *Ostrea edulis*, the favoured fare of gourmets and lovers, which was nearly wiped out 25 years ago by disease and overdredging.

Now successful breeding experiments by a marine biologist in Kent suggest that native molluscs could multiply tenfold in the next three to four years.

John Bayes, managing director of Seasalter Shellfish, the sole provider of Whitstable oysters, said: "We are the only people breeding native oysters in hatcheries in this country. We re-lay them on shallow seabeds and have seen plenty of evidence that the native oyster can re-establish itself."

Indoor breeding has until now been the exclusive privilege of the oblong, crenellated, hollow-shelled Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, introduced to Britain in the Sixties to ensure a future for the dying oyster industry.

The resurrection of *Ostrea edulis* will delight British oyster connoisseurs, who turn up their noses at the cucumber-tasting usurper in favour of the nutty-flavour native. The Roman historian Pliny said native oysters were the only good thing about Britain. According to Mr Bayes, five million native oysters were harvested in Whitstable in 1922 against two million today.

With the Pacific oyster now accounting for nine tenths of the British market, hopes that the native oyster can regain the upper hand are premature. "A full revival will be a long and slow process," Mr Bayes said.

"Britain now harvests more 10 million oysters a year, and the industry has a 30 per cent growth rate. Yet Britons consume only a thousand tonnes a year, a fraction of the amount swallowed by the French, to whom our surfeit is exported."

Because natives sell at three times the price of Pacific oysters, the Shellfish Association reckons that in 1993 sales of natives were worth £750,000, while those of *gigas* netted £2.25 million. The present oyster season has seen a rise in production for both species of the shellfish, which is low in calories.

Steve Gannon, the last native oyster fisherman remaining in Whitstable, which formerly provided two thirds of the national harvest, said: "It is really hard work, and a horrible job. I go out for 12 hours in winter and get up to 26 hauls a day."

Dr Clive Askew, of the Shellfish Association, said: "The industry has been turned around on the strength of the Pacific oyster, which is easier and quicker to grow, and can be eaten all year round. Natives are only in season in winter months, as they breed in the summer."

The fixed season of the native oyster led to the tradition of eating oysters in months containing an 'R'. All oysters have to be filtered in purification systems for 48 hours after leaving the sea, in line with EC directives.

James Green, manager of the Royal Native Oyster Stores, which houses Whitstable's leading fish restaurant, said: "The native oyster is for the upmarket clientele. The texture is firmer and more constant and the taste is fresher. Native oysters are generally three times the price of the farmed variety at about £9 for half a dozen."

Mr Green hopes to reintroduce native oyster farming on his company's beds on the south side of the Thames Estuary. "I would definitely like to play a part in the resurgence of the native oyster industry. They were sold around the world 100 years ago because they were the best. It is a dream of mine to be able to have people eating native oysters in my restaurant and able to look outside and see them being farmed in our waters," he said.

Pacific oysters: nine tenths of the British market

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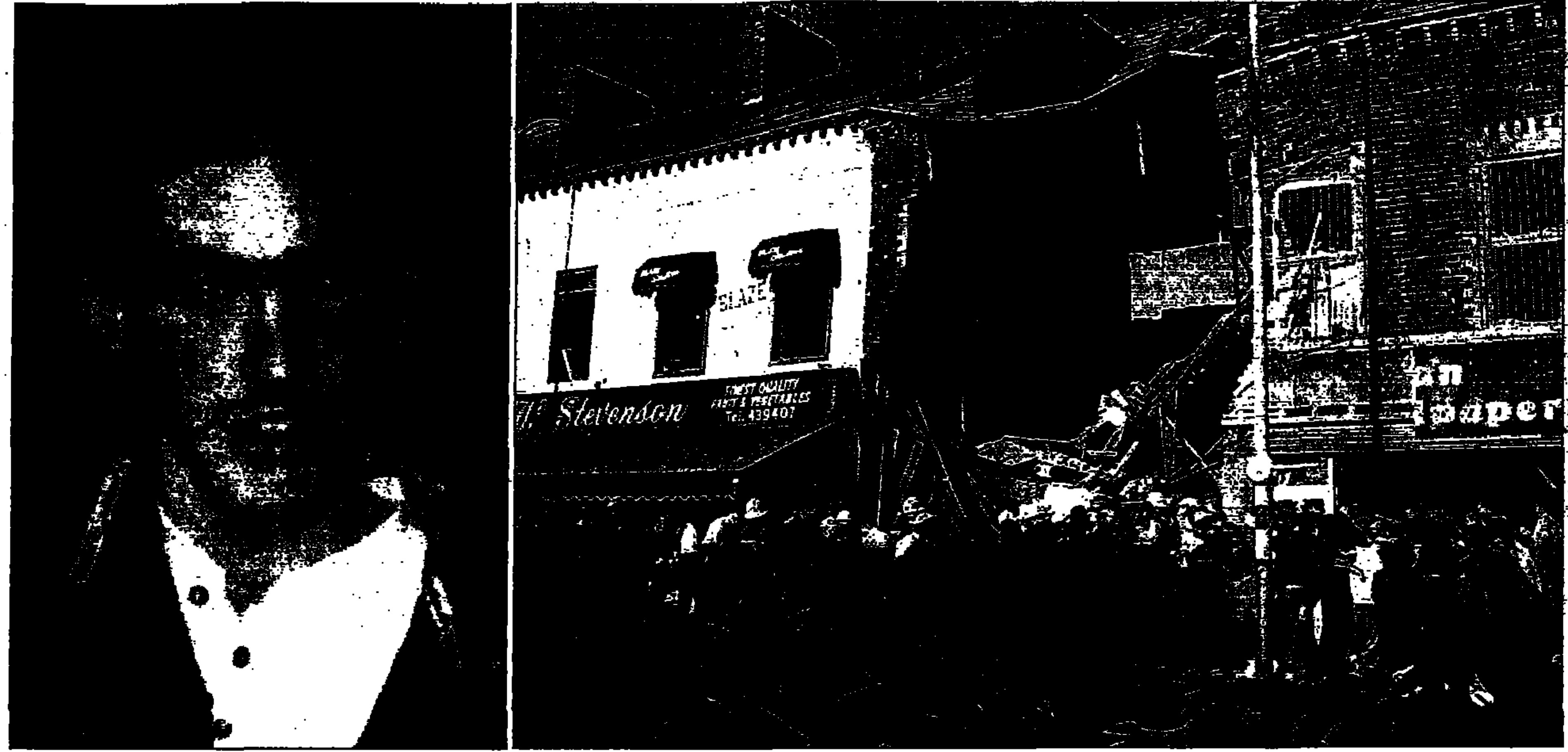
TT101

'This wanton slaughter must rank as one of the most outrageous atrocities endured in this Province'

Judge gives fish shop bomber nine life sentences

■ Sean Kelly showed no remorse as he was sentenced for planting the IRA bomb that killed his accomplice and nine innocent people in the Shankhill Road, Nicholas Watt writes



Sean Kelly, who helped to plant the bomb that destroyed Frizzell's fish shop. It was intended to kill members of the Ulster Defence Association who had been meeting above

AN IRA bomber was jailed for 25 years yesterday for causing the Shankill Road fish shop explosion which left nine people dead. Lord Justice MacDermott at Belfast Crown Court also gave Sean Kelly nine life sentences — one for each victim of the "wanton slaughter".

Sean Kelly, 21, showed no remorse as Lord Justice MacDermott told him he had been responsible for "one of the most outrageous atrocities" in Northern Ireland.

The 5lb bomb, planted by Kelly and his accomplice, Thomas Begley, exploded in Frizzell's fish shop on the Shankill Road in October 1993. Begley, who was 23, died instantly in the explosion, which was intended to kill members of the Ulster Defence Association who had been meeting above the shop before the attack. The device killed the shopowner, his daughter, five customers — one a seven-year-old girl — and two people who had been standing outside the shop. Rescuers spent hours after the explosion freeing the dead and injured from the rubble. The pavements had been packed with shoppers when the bomb exploded just after 1pm on Saturday, October 23, 1993.

Kelly, who was pulled from the rubble, was arrested in hospital as he recovered from severe injuries.

Sentencing him to nine life terms and to 25 years for causing an explosion, Lord Justice MacDermott told him: "I let the facts of this awful incident speak for themselves. This wanton slaughter of so many innocent people must rank as one of the most outrageous atrocities ever endured by people of this Province in the last quarter of a century, a period that started before you were born."

The judge described the devastating scene when the shop and floors collapsed in the explosion. He said: "The papers in this case paint a graphic picture of the carnage and suffering, but also of the resolution and bravery of those who helped at the scene and of the skill and dedication of those who ministered to the dead, the dying and the injured in the ambulances which took them from the scene and in the hospitals where all treatment was given."

The judge said that Kelly and Begley planted the bomb after being driven in a hijacked car to a street adjoining the Shankill Road disguised as delivery men. The bomb went off just as Begley was about to hang it on a meat hook above a refrigeration unit at the back of the shop. He told the court: "These two men were engaged in a joint enterprise on 23 October when, dressed in similar disguises, they emerged from a hijacked car and together walked down the Shankill Road and into Frizzell's fish shop. This bears all the hallmarks of a carefully planned and organised terrorist action in which two men bring a bomb into a crowded shop."

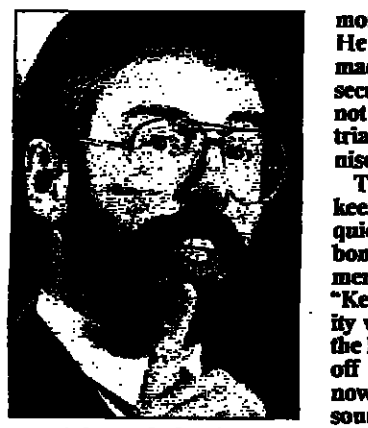
Kelly, heavily scarred from injuries received in the explosion, in which he lost his left eye, sat pale-faced and expressionless as the judge gave his verdict. Kelly refused to recognise his trial and never spoke throughout the case but he is understood to have told friends: "It was a mistake. It was not meant to happen."

Relatives of the victims condemned the sentences as lenient. April Brown, whose brother, Michael Morrison, was killed, said: "It is just a disgrace. He should serve his whole lifetime in prison. In fact I'd like to see hanging come back because I would love to be there in the front row to see him getting hanged by the neck. I would be cheering on because he is one bad wee pig. He showed no remorse at all."

The victims of the bomb were: John Frizzell, 63, the owner of the shop, and his daughter, Sharon McBride, 29, who was seven months pregnant; Michael Morrison, 27, Evelyn Baird, 27, the woman he lived with, and their daughter, Michelle Baird, 7; Leanne Murray, 13; Gillian Williamson, 49, and her husband, George, 63; and Wilma McKee, 38.

Childhood friends whose blunder embarrassed IRA

By Nicholas Watt



Adams: helped to carry Begley's coffin

SEAN KELLY and Thomas Begley were lifelong friends from the fiercely republican Ardoyne area of north Belfast. They went to the same school and grew up in the same terraced street.

They were known to the security forces, but not regarded as the IRA's brightest recruits — although Kelly was considered an effective operator. One security source said: "Kelly was not an academic, but he was an effective terrorist. He was well regarded and trusted in the IRA, although it was unlikely that he would have made it to the highest ranks of the movement."

The intended targets of the Shankill bomb were probably leaders of the Ulster Defence Association, who held a meeting above Frizzell's fish shop. But the loyalists left the building just before the bomb exploded, and Begley and Kelly were caught in the blast. Rescuers who picked their way through the rubble carried Kelly to an ambulance, but realised he was one of the bombers when they saw his surgical gloves.

Kelly refused to co-operate with detectives who tried to interview him while he recovered in hospital. "No remorse was ever expressed. He never said sorry, and made no admission," said the security source. Kelly would not give evidence during the trial and he refused to recognise the court.

The IRA leadership was keen for the trial to end quickly because the Shankill bomb was one of the movement's greatest blunders. "Kelly and Begley's credibility would have been high in the IRA if the bomb had gone off as planned. But Kelly's now an embarrassment," the source said.

Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, said after the attack that it could not be excused. But he provoked widespread condemnation when he briefly carried Begley's coffin, which was covered in an Irish tricolor.

A week after the bomb, loyalist gunmen shot dead six Catholics and one Protestant in a bar in Greysteel, Co Londonderry. A seventh victim died last year.

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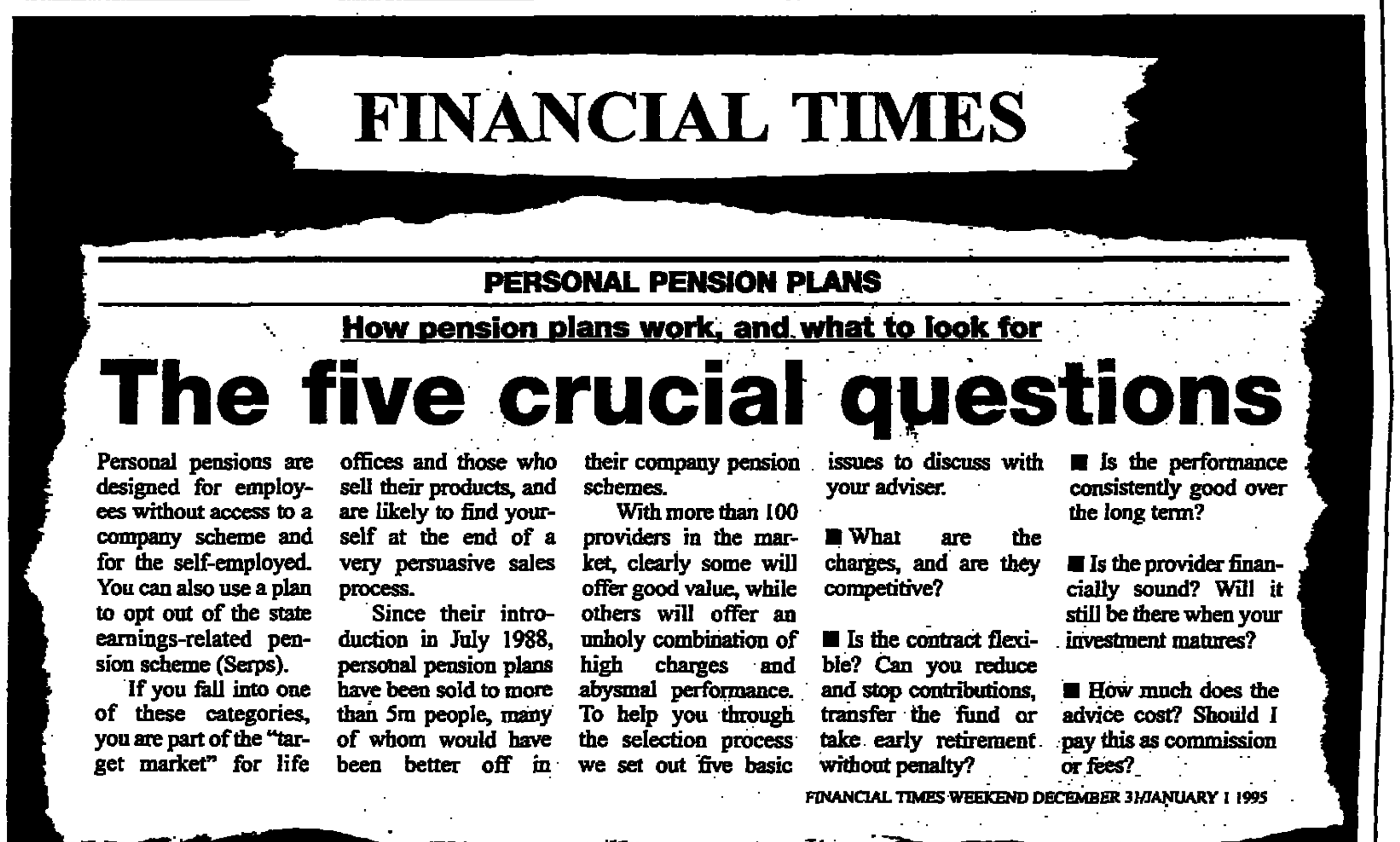

FINANCIAL TIMES

PERSONAL PENSION PLANS

How pension plans work, and what to look for

The five crucial questions

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■ Is the contract flexible? Can you reduce and stop contributions, transfer the fund or take early retirement without penalty?

■ Is the performance consistently good over the long term?

■ Is the provider financially sound? Will it still be there when your investment matures?

■ How much does the advice cost? Should I pay this as commission or fees?

FINANCIAL TIMES WEEKEND DECEMBER 31/JANUARY 1 1995

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Source: Money Marketing Survey 10 year with-profits personal pension plans, £100pm contribution - 19 January 1995

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Source: Money Marketing FPR With-Profits Survey 1994

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Education advisers call for tighter A-level standards

By Ben Preston
Education Correspondent

TWO government education advisers called on the examination watchdog to investigate A-level standards yesterday after a clampdown on GCSEs. Dr John Marks and Professor Alan Smithers said the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority should take action after figures showed the number of A-level courses offered in English, science and mathematics was far higher than at GCSE.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, ordered big cuts in the number of GCSE syllabuses in three subjects on Wednesday in an attempt to guarantee consistent marking standards. She acted after two examination boards were found guilty of excessive leniency in some papers.

Mrs Shephard told the five GCSE boards to reduce syllabuses from 20 in mathematics, and 15 in science to eight for each subject. Just five courses will be allowed in English. But at A level, schools enjoy a much wider choice when they shop around for a course they believe will give pupils the best chance of success. Figures obtained by *The Times* show that schools can choose from 26 syllabuses in English this year — up from 20 in 1990 — 25 in mathematics and 123 in science.

Shephard: cut number of GCSE syllabuses

Almost half of mathematics and science courses offered by the eight A-level boards are modular. These allow candidates to choose from a menu of self-contained units, making it even more difficult to ensure standards are comparable because there are several alternative routes to a particular qualification. Unpublished research for SCAA shows candidates on modular courses in mathematics achieve at least one grade higher than those on conventional courses.

Dr John Marks, an SCAA council member, said: "We have not looked as closely at A level as we have at GCSE and it's an area where we need to be alert." He added: "Things have been moving very fast at A level and we need to look closely at this in the light of what we have learnt at GCSE."

Professor Alan Smithers, director of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at Manchester University, said "grade inflation" was apparent at A level as well as GCSE.

The former government curriculum adviser urged SCAA to launch an inquiry into A levels. He said: "Many more people are taking the examination yet curiously the pass rate has gone up. About 11 per cent of the age group used to sit A levels with a 70 per cent pass rate — now 32 per cent of the age group take the exam with an 80 per cent success rate."

Professor Smithers said Mrs Shephard had intervened to regulate GCSE tightly: "This begs the question 'why are A levels being allowed to go in the opposite direction?'" He said the examination boards were financially dependent upon their ability to attract candidates and might allow qualifications to be shaped on commerical grounds.

Ministers are adamant that A level is the "gold standard" of the education system. Last year the proportion of candidates achieving grades A and B increased for the fifth successive year to a record 32 per cent.

☐ Detailed plans to increase funding for popular schools will be unveiled next week by John Redwood, Welsh Secretary, as ministers attempt to cut the number of pupils turned down by "first-choice" schools. The opening phase in a programme of targeted funding, with over-subscribed schools being given extra grants, will reward schools that attract too many applications for places.

Major to reverse decline of sport

By Nicholas Wood, chief political correspondent

JOHN MAJOR emphasised his determination yesterday to reverse the decline of competitive team games in schools, promising a far-reaching package of measures to be unveiled in the spring.

"I am determined to put sport back at the heart of school life. I think it is every bit as important as some of the other reforms we are putting in place," the Prime Minister said during a visit to Sudbury Rugby Club, Suffolk, where he watched youngsters training.

Details of the package are being finalised by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary. One key proposal under close scrutiny is a plan indirectly to use National Lottery money to pay teachers for supervising games in the evenings and at weekends.

The law prevents the £360 million each year from the lottery being spent on anything other than capital projects but ministers believe they may have found a way around the restriction. Schools would receive grants to build sports complexes in partnership with local councils or private firms and would be allowed to channel profits into payments to teachers that might amount to as much as £50 a week.

Corporal Jackson, below, and one of his Rwandan photographs taken last September of orphanage children with a British Army major

Photographer who braved war zones dies in car crash

By A Staff Reporter

AN ARMY photographer whose pictures of war zones around the world reached a wide audience has been killed in a road collision on his way back from an assignment.

Lance-Corporal Sean Jackson, 26, had captured images of starving refugees in Rwanda and dangerous military operations in Bosnia. But it was on his way back from filming the Army skiing championships in the French Alps that his vehicle was involved in a road smash and rolled down an embankment. Corporal Jackson, who had also served in Northern Ireland, died in the collision just after he had taken the wheel of the minibus near Grenoble.

Last night his father, Phil, of Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, said: "It's so sad that someone so young should die when he had so much to live for." Corporal Jackson, who was unmarried, was a member of the Royal Logistics Corps and was attached to the Army Public Information Organisation based at Salisbury.

His work has appeared in many publications, including *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, and *Daily Mail*, many of them in August and September last year when the situation in Rwanda was at its most serious.

His mother, Pat, said: "He was a wonderful son. He was highly thought of and his work was greatly admired. The Army was his life. He loved photography, still photography rather than videos. He always played his photography down, he never bragged about his work. He said he was never good enough."

Corporal Jackson, who had only recently returned from Rwanda, spent nearly a week filming the skiing championships at Serre Chevalier after travelling to France to take photographs for an Army promotion. Mrs Jackson said he was looking foward to a six-week posting in Australia. It is understood he had just taken over the driving from Captain Tim Purbeck, head of the Army Mobile News Unit, who had driven the first 40 miles to Grenoble, when the minibus was hit by a van from behind and spun off the road. Captain Purbeck escaped with minor injuries.

An Army spokesman said: "Corporal Jackson joined the Royal Signals six years ago. Then three years ago he changed profession. He has covered Bosnia, Rwanda and Northern Ireland. We use photographers for all sorts of things, not just publicity but also for battalion purposes and during operations.

"Their work can record for the Army what a situation was like, what things were needed and for future planning on how things could be improved the next time."

Major Barry Hawgood, of the Royal Logistics Corps, said: "Sean was a very cheerful individual who thoroughly enjoyed his job and I will miss him very much."

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Church of England Year Book

Dean dismisses Toronto blessing as mass hysteria

By John Young

THE Toronto blessing, which is sweeping through the Christian evangelical movement, has been rejected by a senior churchman as mass hysteria.

In the preface to the 1995 Church of England Year Book, the Dean of Worcester, the Very Rev Robert Jeffery, said that those who succumbed to the phenomenon, far from being seized by the Holy Spirit, were gripped with hysterics.

Up to 4,000 churchgoers are said to have experienced the "blessing", which causes them to fall down, laugh uncontrollably, weep or begin "speaking in tongues". But the dean describes it as "an expression of mass hysteria for which there is ample historical precedence.

"There is a danger that it will lead to a ghetto mentality and the undermining of an intellectually respectable expression of faith," he writes. However he concedes that congregations have been "too afraid of emotion in worship".

The "blessing", as its devotees call it, was first witnessed in the Vineyard Christian Fellowship chapel near Toronto airport in January last year, when, without warning, members of the congregation fell to the floor in laughter or tears. Evangelists see the blessing as a visitation of the Holy Spirit, echoing the events of Pentecost nearly two millennia ago.

Since then it has spread to this country, notably to congregations at Holy Trinity, Brompton, in west London, where it attracts the curious as well as the committed. The dean insists that the Toronto blessing is not a sign of revival. The phenomenon has been questioned by churchmen before. Bishop Colin Buchanan, commenting in his book, *News of Liturgy*, on congregations who experienced the blessing, said: "We are left to rejoice with others at that which makes them glad and which gives them refreshment. But we are concerned at the depth of our own discipleship in the first place, and would leave the issue of a passing phenomenon in the hands of God."

The dean also says in the year book that it will take "much time and love" to lessen the tension within the Church over the ordination of women priests. The Church must avoid consigning opponents to a ghetto, he says, but they in turn seem to have little appreciation of how far the rest of the Church has gone to support them. "There can be no more moves in this direction," he says. "The Church has to live with the decisions it has made."

☐ *The Church of England Year Book 1995* (Church House Bookshop, 31 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BN; £19.50)

Jeffery: "blessing" is not a sign of revival

Breakaway Anglicans find a home where the hearth is

By Marianne Darch

A MAN who opened his living room for religious services had standing room only last week. Adrian Magor was frustrated at the lack of church sites available to Anglican Catholics in Shaftesbury, Dorset.

The Very Reverend Patrick McEune conducted the first communion service at Mr Magor's semi-detached house, the 20 people who attended using up Mr Magor's supply of chairs, including deckchairs from the garden shed. The remainder had to stand.

The altar was placed against an east-facing wall, opposite a fireplace decorated with family photographs.

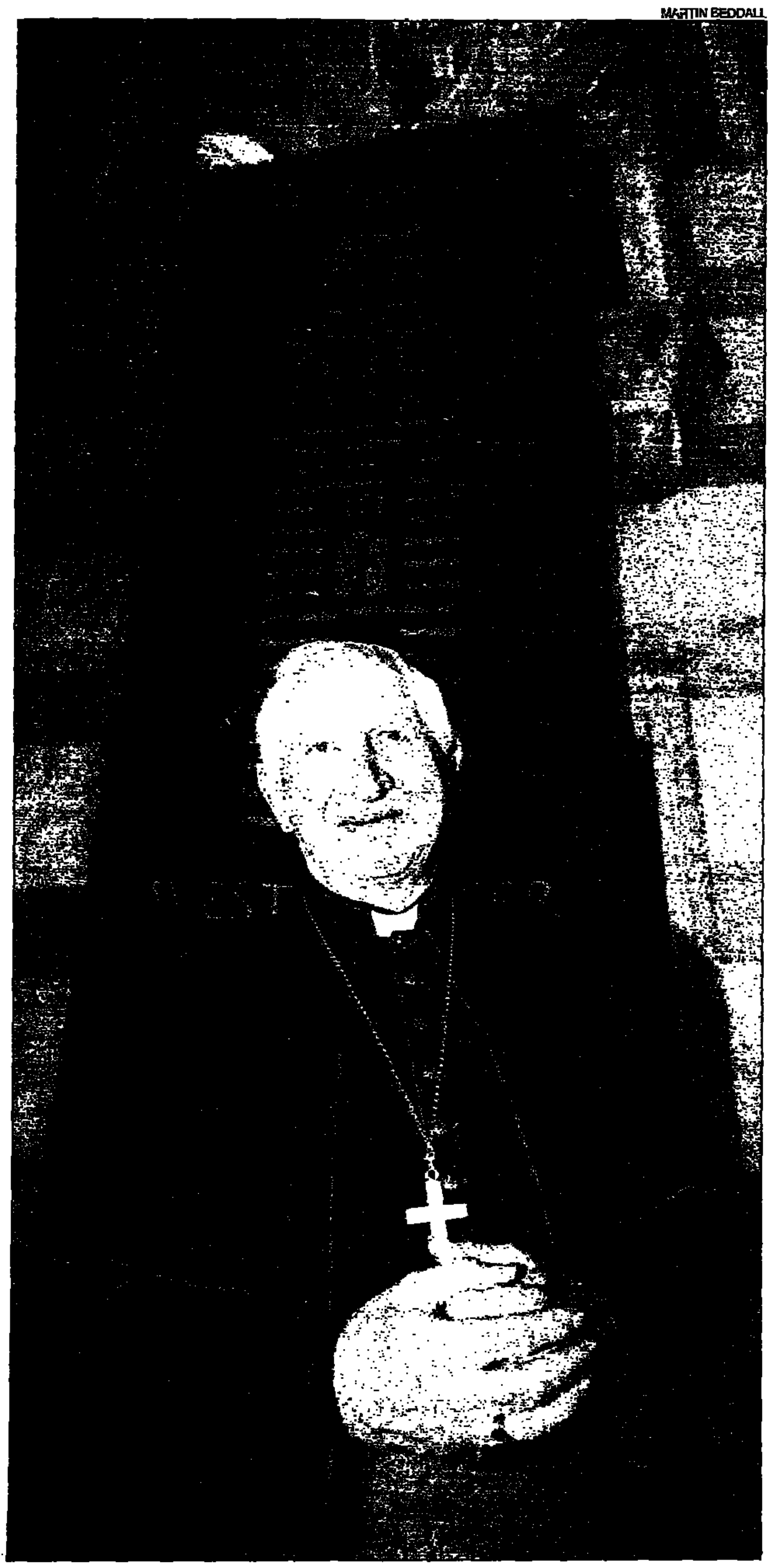
Mr Magor, 54, who runs workshops for the unemployed while training to enter the ministry, said: "This takes religion back to basics. The earliest Christians were forced to set up house churches. The level of interest shows a spiritual need in the area."

Anglican Catholics left the Anglican Church over the introduction of women priests. Mr Magor said: "I was a member of the Church of England for over 50 years but now almost anything goes if it will please someone."

The Anglican Catholic Church is affiliated to the Episcopal Church set up in America in the 1970s and introduced to Britain in 1992. There are 23 parishes and congregations total over 600.

Credo, page 12
At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

MARTIN BEDDALL



Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, launching a programme of arts and worship yesterday to mark the centenary of Westminster Cathedral

Claire Hood: "she never came home"

Mother of dead girl appeals to killer

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

THE mother of the murdered schoolgirl Claire Hood described yesterday how she watched her daughter go off to school and took part in a desperate hunt when she failed to come home.

Pam Bennett, 33, speaking publically about her loss for the first time, said she and other searchers walked through Cath Cobb woods calling Claire's name. They passed within 25 yards of her daughter's body.

Claire vanished after leaving her home on the St Mellon's estate. Her body was found in the woods the following day. She had been sexually assaulted. Ms Bennett said: "I watched her from the front door. She turned and waved — but she never came home. I had a terrible feeling that something awful had happened when I came back from work to find Claire was not at home. She was never late.

"She knew I used to worry about her being out. When she went out at night she was always home early. Claire was not just a daughter, she was a friend. We shared each other's problems."

Sobbing, she pleaded with the killer to give himself up. "Whoever you are I'm begging you, spare me and my family any more grief. Until we find who did this we can never rest and Claire can never rest. We can't have Claire's body until they find who did it. Please give me back my daughter so we can bury her in peace."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Post union taken to court over walkout

A High Court attempt by the Post Office to sequestrate the assets of the Union of Communication Workers for alleged contempt of no-strike injunctions during the London postal walkout was adjourned yesterday to next week. The union strongly denies the allegations.

Escapers held

Two prisoners who escaped from The Verne prison in Dorset were recaptured five miles away at Upwey railway station. Keith Matthews, 27, and Mark Grender, 23, were jailed for burglary.

Tepees approved

Jeff Starr, 55, a bus driver also known as Spotted Eagle, has been given permission to set up an educational Red Indian village on the outskirts of Swindon, Wiltshire. He is now seeking sponsors.

School stabbing

A 15-year-old boy was seriously injured after being stabbed several times at Alsop High School, Liverpool. The boy, attacked on Thursday, is in a stable condition. Police have questioned two youths.

999 car kills man

A 53-year-old man has died after being hit by a police car on a pedestrian crossing in Kentish Town, north London, on Thursday night. Police said the patrol car had been responding to a 999 call.

Student vanishes

Police say they "fear the worst" for David Atherton, 20, a student who was last seen leaving a bar at Durham University on January 19. Divers are searching the Wear.

Pet's ordeal

A dog was dragged 300 yards by a train after his owner got on and the doors closed on the lead in Newcastle upon Tyne. The mongrel, owned by Frank Fearby, 76, was saved when the lead broke.

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صحفنا عن الاهل

Modern methods push stoical star of Wind in the Willows to the brink of extinction

Tide of change sweeps Ratty from the river bank

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

Grahame: tales of a safer river bank

THE water vole, on which the stoical Ratty in *The Wind in the Willows* was modelled, is facing extinction, a fate Kenneth Grahame could never have imagined when he penned his famous tale of riverside life nearly 90 years ago.

According to a report submitted to the Government by six leading conservation groups this week, the water vole is one of 600 species of flora and fauna in danger of disappearing from the British countryside. Wildlife experts say the whiskery, silky brown mammal, known popularly as a water rat and by scientists as *Arvicola terrestris*, will survive only in books by early next century at its current rate of decline.

Numerically, water voles do not look as if they are on the way out: the most recent scientific census came up with a population figure of 4.5 million. Even if the true number is only half that, as some experts believe, it still sounds a lot.

Rob Strachan, a biologist with the wildlife conservation research unit at Oxford University, said: "It is the historical trend rather than the total number that matters. There has been a gradual decline, accelerating over the last 20 years, since the start of this century. By the year 2000 only 6 per cent of water vole sites known to exist 100 years ago will be left."

In a survey carried out in 1989 and 1990, Mr Strachan and a colleague found no trace of water voles at two thirds of some 300 sites which had records of occupation dating back to 1900. Since then he has revisited a tenth of the sites where voles were still present in 1989-90 and found these have been vacated.

Although possessed of neither waterproof fur nor webbed feet, water voles like to build their homes in reed-covered banks beside slow-flowing ditches, streams and rivers. Steep banks offering a choice of burrows at different levels above the water are best.

Agricultural drainage, the canalising of rivers and the piling of banks to speed water flow and prevent flooding, has greatly reduced the supply of such habitats, fragmenting vole colonies and leaving them more vulnerable to predators, especially the alien mink. Over the centuries voles have survived predation by owls, stoats, weasels and foxes. But they are no match for mink, which have become naturalised inhabitants of many river banks after escaping from the farms to which they were imported from North America in the 1920s.

Gordon Woodroffe, a specialist in riverside ecology at York University, said: "Water voles can escape from most prey by diving into the water, but the mink will go after them and is slim enough to get down vole burrows." Radio-tracking studies he conducted on the Yorkshire moors showed water voles disappearing within two years of the arrival of mink.

Conservationists want more research into ways of controlling mink and preserving key habitat features for voles. However, many fear Ratty's decline may already have gone beyond the point of no return.

MARY EVANS

Ratty and Mole might think twice before braving today's hazards for a picnic

Home for sale on Local Hero beach

By Gillian Bowditch

PART of the Silver Sands of Morar, the beach made famous by the film *Local Hero*, is for sale. The sands have been attracting tourists from all over the world since Burt Lancaster and Fulton Mackay were seen haggling over their price in Bill Forsyth's hit film of 1983.

The private beach at Refuge Bay is being sold with a two-bedroom white-washed croft and 18.5 acres of grassland for £147,000. The property, Curtaig, is 40 miles from Fort William and five miles from Mallaig. The house, comprising a lounge, kitchen, dining room, utility room, bathroom, two bedrooms and separate summer house, did not feature in the film because the village scenes were shot at Pennan, on the Grampian coast.

David Paul, of the vendors' solicitors, said: "The views from the beach are magnificent. You can see right across to Skye and the Sound of Sleat. In the summer the sunsets are spectacular."

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W	N	E	S
Price	Omar Sharif	Czerniewski	Zia Mamood
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣ (1)	Pass	4♠	All pass

Contract: 4♠ by East. Opening lead: ♥8 (1) cue-bid.

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

Omar Sharif took the ace and king of hearts and gave Zia a ruff. The declarer still had to lose the ace of diamonds. Good lead by Zia you might say, put it down to the mysteries of the East, and go onto the next hand. If that's what you think, you've missed something in the bidding. It was Omar's pass of Four Clubs. I can assure you that many tournament players would thoughtlessly double Four Clubs, on the basis that as they held the king of clubs that was the lead they wanted. But Omar could see that with the hearts bid unsupported it was likely that Zia had a doubleton, so he senisbly passed. Zia correctly made the inference that Omar could stand a lead other than clubs, and so found the killing heart. Beating Four Spades was worth 9IMP's.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

World championship

AFTER the failure of the negotiations between the Professional Chess Association and the city of Dortmund to stage the 1995 World Championship, the PCA has switched to Cologne. From September 12 to October 16 Garry Kasparov will defend his title against grandmaster Gata Kamsky of the USA or grandmaster Viswanathan Anand of India.

Wijk aan Zee

In the final of international knockout tournament at Wijk aan Zee in northern Holland, the Russian grandmaster Alexei Dreev leads his compatriot grandmaster Evgeny Bareev by the score of 1.5 to 0.5. In the consolation tournament for those eliminated at an earlier stage of the knockout section the lead is held by Sergei Tiviakov with 7 points from 9 games. Nigel Short and Michael Adams have 6 points and are joint second.

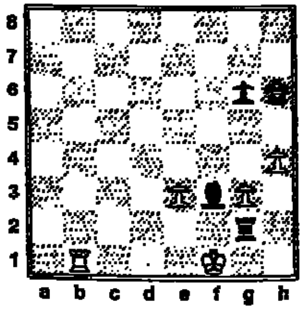
White: Evgeny Bareev
Black: Alexei Dreev
Wijk aan Zee, January 1995

Slav Defence

1	d4	d5
2	c4	c6
3	Nf3	Nf6
4	Nc3	e6
5	Bg5	h6
6	Bxf6	Qxf6
7	e3	Nd7
8	Bd3	dxc4
9	Bxc4	g6
10	0-0	Bg7
11	Qc2	0-0
12	Ne4	Qe7
13	Bb3	Rd8
14	Rad1	a5
15	a3	Ra6
16	Rd2	Nf6
17	Nc5	Ra7
18	Ne5	Bd7
19	Rfd1	Be8
20	Na4	Raa8
21	e4	Qc7
22	Nf3	Rac8
23	e5	Nd7
24	Rc1	c5
25	Qe4	b6
26	g3	Qb8
27	d5	Nxe5
28	Nxe5	Qxe5
29	Qxe5	Bxe5
30	Nxb6	Rb8
31	Nc4	Bd4
32	Nxa5	exd5
33	Ba2	Rxb2
34	Rxb2	Bxb2
35	Rxc5	d4
36	Nc4	Bc1
37	Ne5	Bxa3
38	Rc7	Kf8
39	Nxf7	Ra8
40	Nxh6	Bd6
41	Rc2	d3
42	Rd2	Bb4
43	Rxd3	Rxa2
44	Ng4	Bc6
45	Ne3	Re2
46	Rd1	Bc5
47	Kf1	Bf3
48	Re1	Ra2
49	h4	Kg7
50	Rc1	Bb6
51	Rb1	Bd4
52	Re1	Kh6
53	Rb1	Bxe3
54	fxe3	Rg2

White resigns

Diagram of final position



End of a tradition

One of London's great chess attractions has moved after 25 years. The King's Head Chess Club, which had met regularly in the King's Head pub, Moscow Road, Bayswater, west London, has changed venue after a change in the ownership and management of the pub. The King's Head club, one of London's most active chess clubs, has regrouped and will now meet in the Durham Castle pub in Alexander Street, London W2.

Winning Move, Weekend, page 29

هكذا من الاصط [illegible]

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Credo

Holocaust martyrs offer light of hope

Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok

FOR 50 years Jews have struggled to make sense of the destruction of those Jews who perished in the death camps. If God is all-powerful and all-good, how could He have allowed such a tragedy to take place? Jewish history has never presented a more serious religious challenge.

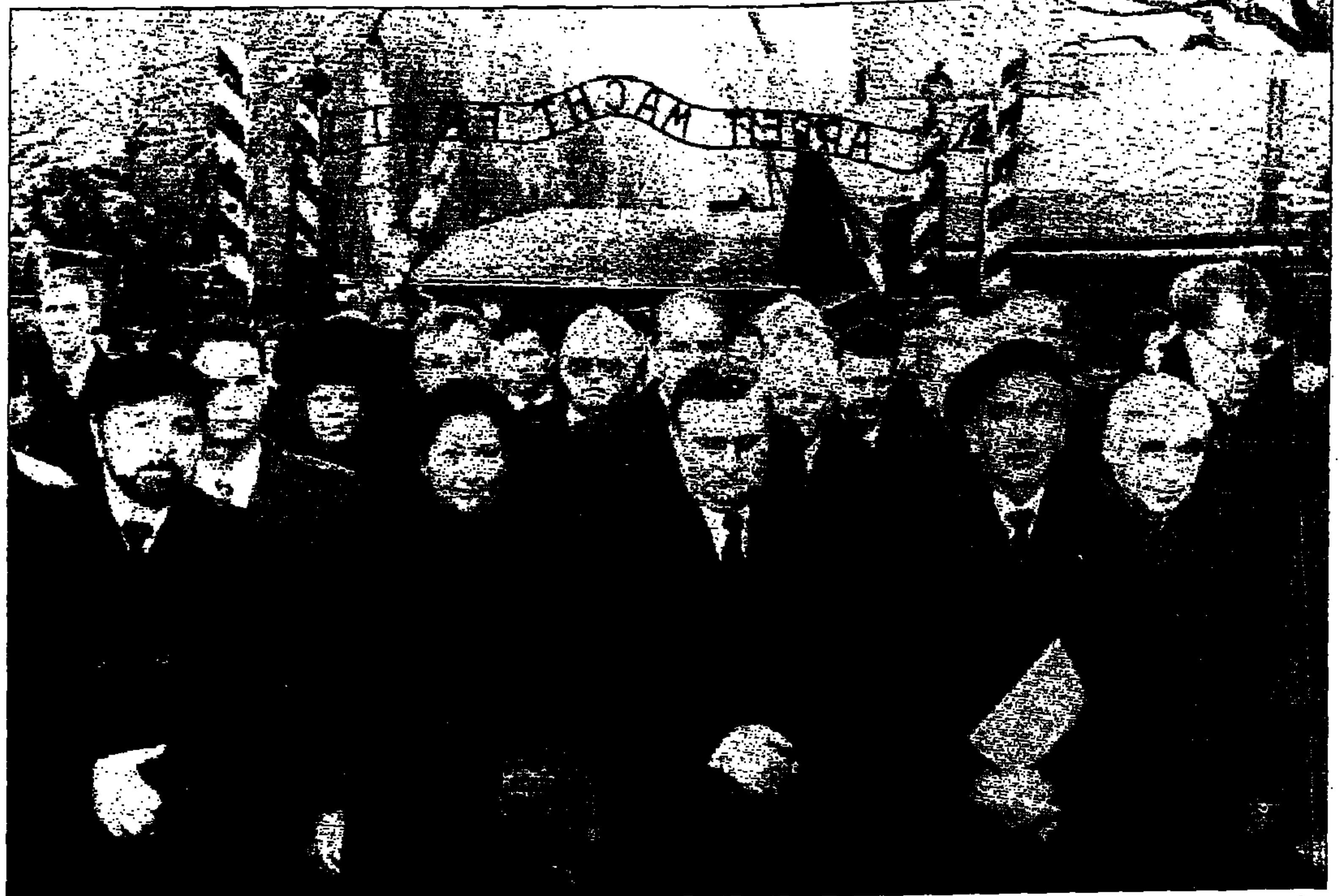
Over the past five decades Jewish writers have attempted to provide a solution to this overwhelming theological perplexity. Yet, surprisingly, in the quest to make sense of this slaughter, Jewish thinkers have refrained from appealing to the traditional Jewish response to suffering and death. Through the centuries the conviction that the righteous would inherit eternal life sustained generations of Jewish martyrs who endured tragedy. As Jews were killed, they glorified God through dedication to the Jewish faith. These heroic Jews who remained steadfast in their faith did not question the ways of God; rather, their deaths testify to their firm belief in a benevolent Lord of history who would reserve a place for them in the Hereafter.

In the concentration camps many religious Jews similarly remained loyal to the tradition of martyrdom for the faith. Joining generations of Jews before them, they sanctified God with unshakeable faith. As they awaited the final sentence, they drew strength from one another to witness the God of Israel. In the camps these Jews faced death silently. When their last moments arrived they died without fear. They did not plead for mercy since they believed it was God's judgement to take their lives. In heaven, they believed, they would receive their just reward, and by sanctifying God's name they could bring forgiveness to the Jewish people.

Here then is an answer to the religious dilemmas of the Holocaust, one which is particularly relevant as we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Soviet liberation of Auschwitz. The promise of immortality offers a way of reconciling the belief in a loving and just God with the nightmare of the Holocaust. Such a hope sustained the Jewish people through centuries of persecution: now that Jewry stands on the threshold of the 21st century, it can again serve as the fulcrum of religious belief. Only in this way will the Jewish people who have experienced the Valley of the Shadow of Death be able to say, in the ancient words of the Psalmist: "I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me."

Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok teaches Jewish theology at the University of Kent and is a Visiting Professor of Interfaith Dialogue at Middlesex University.

REINHARD KRAUS/REUTER



Those marking the liberation of Auschwitz 50 years ago yesterday included, front row: Shevach Weiss, Speaker of the Knesset, Simone Veil, French Minister of Social Affairs and an Auschwitz survivor, President Walesa of Poland, and Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace laureate and an Auschwitz survivor.

Anne Frank's father wrote of survival

FROM REUTER IN AMSTERDAM

A PREVIOUSLY unknown letter written by Anne Frank's father soon after he was freed from Auschwitz surfaced in The Netherlands yesterday.

Written from Katowice near Auschwitz in March 1945 to Otto Frank's second cousin, Milly, in Britain, the letter shows that Frank had no idea his family had perished and that he was alone.

"Of Frau Edith and the children, I know nothing. We are separated at our arrival at Birkenau-Auschwitz, September 5th," said the letter, published by the daily *Algemeen Dagblad* to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the murder of 1.5 million camp inmates.

Frank's wife was killed by the hardships of Auschwitz and both his daughters died of typhus in the Bergen Belsen camp.

Anne Frank's teenage diary, an account of life in hiding from the Nazis in an Amsterdam house, became an international testament to the oppression of Jews and other races under Nazism.

A spokeswoman for the Anne Frank Foundation said a relative of Frank's, now living in the United States, had recently donated the letter to its archives, though the foundation did not plan to exhibit it. "We were liberated by the Russians on January 27 and it was lucky that at the time being I stayed at the hospital, as this was left by the Germans intact," Frank wrote in the letter in English, his second language.

"They tried to make me leave with them but I managed to escape and stayed, that was my chance.

"Here we are waiting to be repatriated, but there is still war and we are far from home, Holland is still partly being occupied.

"When shall we meet again? I long for you all and am so much better now weighing again 60 kg (132lbs). How shall I find you all and all my old friends? I was always optimistic and I am still trying the best."

Frank recounts how his family was hidden for more than two years by friends in Amsterdam. "Luckily I had earned enough money those years to pay our living but now I am a begger, having lost everything except life.

"Nothing of my household is left, not a photo, not a letter of my children, nothing, nothing; but I don't want to think what will happen later and if I shall be able to work again. There are as many in the same situation," Frank wrote.

Anne Frank's diary was returned to her father by a woman who sheltered the family, and published in 1947. Otto Frank remarried in 1953 and died, aged 91, in 180 in Basle, Switzerland.

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'No more war and killing' crusade launched at Wall of Death as biggest crime in history is recalled

Walesa leads the mourners in silent salute to victims

FROM ROGER BOYES IN AUSCHWITZ

ONLY the creaking complaint of old timber and the whine of a sharp, bleak wind broke the minute of silence as 13 Presidents, three kings and a cluster of Nobel laureates marked the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp.

A light snow fell and, in an odd intrusion, a newspaper gusted across the yard as a rabbi, rocking rapidly on his heels, intoned the prayer of the dead. The timing of the prayers had been one of many sources of friction between Jews and the Polish organisers — Jewish organisations had wanted a longer period of contemplation to recognise that most of Auschwitz's 1.5 million victims were of Jewish origin — but yesterday everybody seemed ready to put aside differences, at least temporarily, to focus on the dead.

A Roman Catholic bishop, Tadeusz Racoczy, referred explicitly to the extermination of the Jews. "This is where the elimination of the Jewish nation took place. This was supposed to have been the final grave of nations regarded as unworthy of life," he told the hushed crowd. In all, five sets of prayers — from Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths — were recited.

Elie Wiesel, who had on Thursday given a blistering speech against the German murderers in the camps, also made a nod towards his Polish hosts. "It is true that not all the victims were Jews — but all the Jews were victims," he said in a largely unscripted address. President Walesa of Poland referred to the inscription *Arbeit macht frei* on the main gate of the camp. "The idea that work makes you free is something I would support if it were not associated with this inscription. Here these words are a mockery."

Together President Walesa and Mr Wiesel had led the mixed crowd of 5,000 delegates into the corridor between Block 10 — where women inmates were experimented upon — and Block 11, the so-called death block. It was a strange procession that included the Presidents of Germany, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Croatia, Slovenia and many other states as well as three monarchs, jumbled up with bodyguards, ordinary Auschwitz survivors, a Russian general, ambassadors, interpreters and the occasional stray journalist. The mourners drew to a halt in front of the Wall of Death where thousands of inmates were gunned down by firing squads or shot in the back of the head.

The most moving scene, however, was in Birkenau, the second Auschwitz camp. After the caravan of VIPs had laid their wreathes and lit their candles, hundreds of black-clad elderly Jews started to roam around the camp. The main Auschwitz camp was built on the basis of an old Austro-Hungarian barracks; solid if draughty red-brick buildings supplemented by wooden blocks. Part of the camp had been restored and turned into a museum.

> ‘This was supposed to have been the final grave of nations regarded as unworthy of life’

Birkenau, little more than a mile down the road, is in its original state: flimsy wooden huts with leaking roofs, crowded with the bunks used by the original prisoners. It takes no imagination to travel back 50 years. The Jews and other former inmates were not weeping yesterday but rather had the concentrated look of people searching for something misplaced. Few strayed the whole length of the camp to the ruptured concrete crematoria or the pond — that looks as if it is part of a slurry landscape — where barrowloads of human ashes were dumped.

The most fundamental disagreement during the liberation anniversary — and not only between Poles and Jews — was whether Auschwitz is a symbol of universal suffering or, more specifically and exclusively, the main site of Jewish martyrdom. Although Mr Wiesel acknowledged that Auschwitz was, in its way, part of the moral framework of the modern world, he was unwilling to dilute the Jewishness of the occasion.

"Now and then we ask ourselves: what is the lesson? The lesson I believe is not to yield to hatred, to fight fanaticism and violence and terror," he said. "Let there be a stop to violence and terror in lands where people kill one another . . . there must be a future. I do not want that for the next generation my past should become their future."

The Nobel laureates who were present at the ceremonies drafted on Thursday night a joint declaration calling for peace. The many heads of state signed the document which described Auschwitz as "the biggest crime in history. We ask all nations and people to stop all fanaticism and violence. No more war and killing."

Mr Wiesel, in helping to draft the document, had thus gone some way to conceding the universality of Auschwitz and implicitly linking it to other atrocities and other horrors. But the camp is likely to remain a source of dispute. President Walesa was aware of the criticism that Poland, the custodian of Auschwitz, wanted to give it a Christian rather than a Jewish stamp. He tried during the two days of commemorations to demonstrate that his concern was not with the narrow Polish national interest. But this has so far failed to convince radical Jewish activists.

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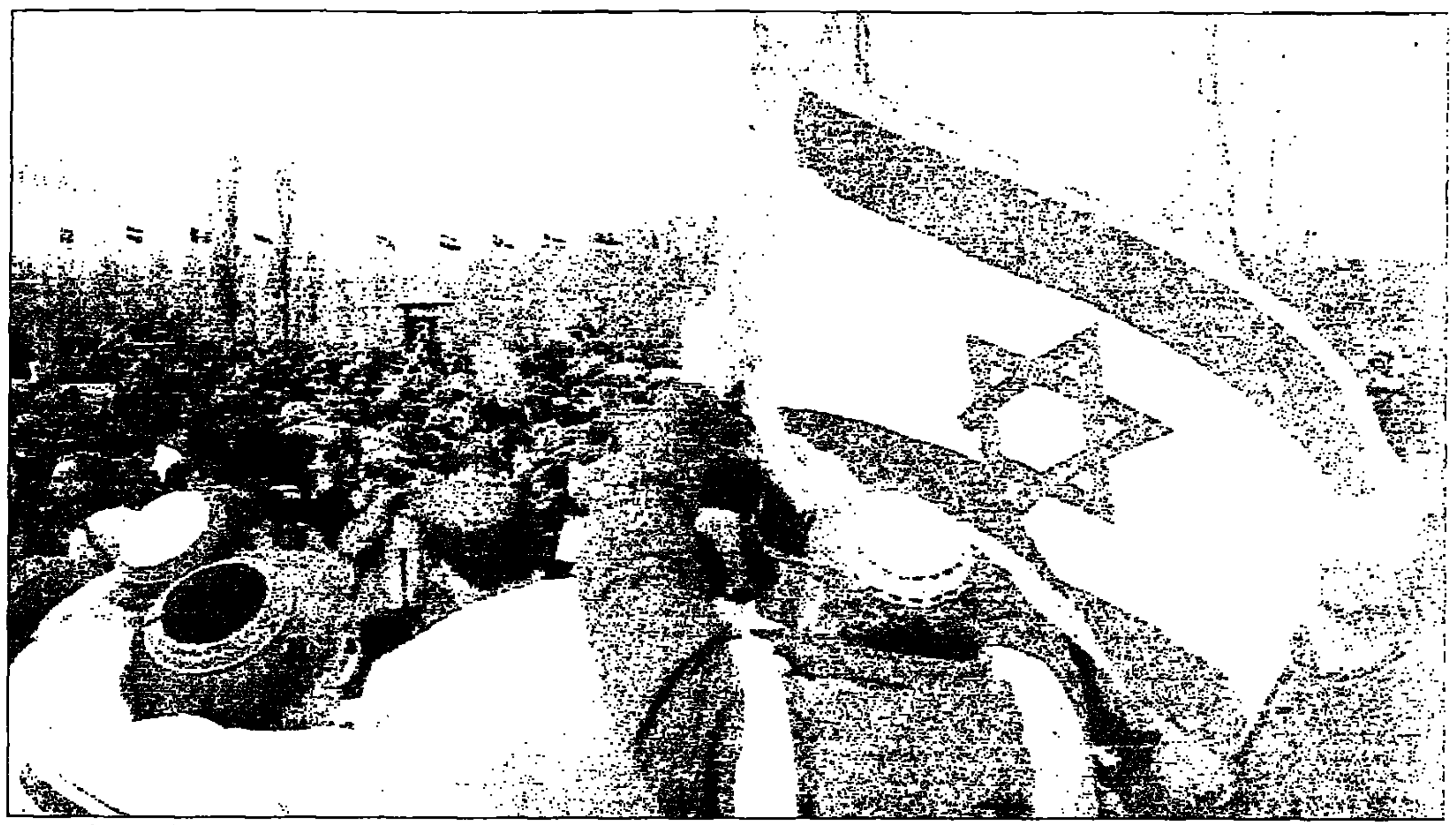

Jews hold aloft the Israeli flag during a commemoration at the Auschwitz camp, where wreaths were laid and candles lit for the Nazi victims

Death camp's dark secrets still emerging

Suspicion about the role of Poles in the pogrom has haunted this week's liberation ceremonies, writes Roger Boyes in Auschwitz

SCRAPING human fat from the chimneys of the crematoria was one of the last tasks of Auschwitz prisoners before the gas chambers were blown up. Yesterday, Andrzej Paluch, a sociology professor, explained why: the fat was made into blocks of soap and sold to Poles in the neighbouring town of Oswiecim.

"It was known as RJF — Reines Jüdisches Fett — pure Jewish fat," said Professor Paluch, from Cracow University, who has been trying to discover how much Oswiecim locals knew about the camp next door. The Poles called the soap "ryfka", and in answering the professor's question, most respondants shrugged their shoulders. A typical response was: "It was the only soap we could get on our ration cards. There was no choice."

This is only one of the dark secrets of Auschwitz which, 50 years after the liberation, are now seeping out. The soap and other grisly signs of co-existence between the Nazi camp and the German-occupied Polish town are at the heart of the present brittle relationship between Poles and Jews. It goes some way towards explaining why the liberation anniversary has become such an embarrassing and painful event.

Before the war, Poland had the largest Jewish community in Europe, partly because of the tolerant 12th-century policies of King Kazimierz the Great, who gave shelter to Jews when they were being persecuted throughout the Continent. By the 1920s and 1930s, the generosity of spirit had turned to resentment, especially in the Polish countryside: right-wing politicians exploited the mood. Jewish activists argue today that this helped to create the sentiment that allowed the Nazis to turn Auschwitz — built in 1940 for mainly Polish political prisoners — into a death factory for Jews.

But this view was always difficult to justify historically. The Germans seemed to have chosen Auschwitz chiefly for its good railway connections. The real reasons for Jewish resentment lie deeper. Since very few Jews, but a relatively large number of Polish prisoners survived Auschwitz, the post-war Jewish community began to ask questions on behalf of their murdered families. Not even radicals like Rabbi Avraham Weiss deny that Poles suffered too, almost as intensely as the Jews and Russians. But the real issue was: did the Poles in some way survive at the expense of the Jews?

The structure of daily life in Auschwitz feeds the lingering Jewish resentment. Tadeusz Borowski, a Polish writer who eventually committed suicide, remembered playing football on a field near the unloading ramp.

It was a Sunday, and he was goalkeeper. Behind the net, a train-load of Jews disembarked and marched towards the gas chambers in Birkenau. "Between the throw-ins of a soccer game, right behind my back, 3,000 people had been put to death." Borowski was a member of the so-call[illegible]anada" squad — made u[illegible] Poles, Dutch, Greeks and Italians — whose job was to sort through the belongings of Jewish victims. In camp terms they were the wealthiest, natural survivors. Professor Paluch calls them "hyenas". A black market in plundered Jewish goods, which were supposed to be stored, carefully listed and then sent back to Germany, existed in the camp and the town. Many families are said still to have items of Jewish property.

The huts of Auschwitz-Birkenau housed 100,000 inmates — several times the town's population. The camp consumed hundreds of tons of coal, supplied labour to German manufacturers and coal mines, and helped the local economy. Local Poles knew well enough what was happening. Wladyslaw Bratek, 66, the head of the local Heritage Association, was a child at the time but remembers: "When the wind came from the west, it was intolerable. I will never forget that smell."

Jews say they have been thrust aside in the place of their martyrdom and that history, distorted under the communists, needs adjusting. The Polish authorities agree and seem to be moving in that direction. But it is a painful and unpleasant process.

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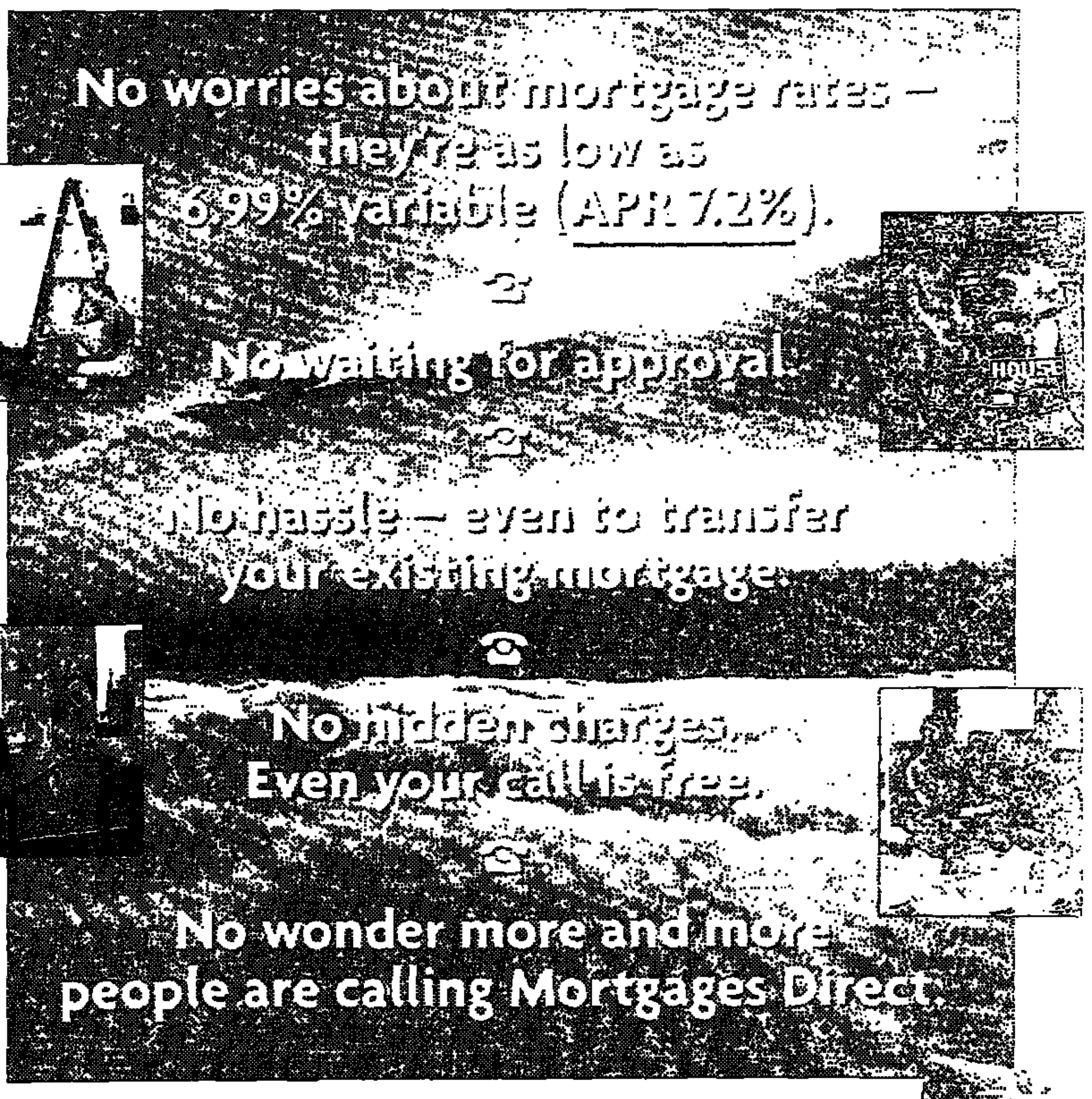
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Gingrich era kicks off with victory on balanced budget

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AS REPUBLICANS celebrated a famous victory on the first and most radical Bill in Newt Gingrich's *Contract with America* yesterday, President Clinton was struggling to avert a humiliating congressional rejection of his $40 billion (£26 billion) plan to rescue the Mexican economy.

By 300 votes to 132 the House backed Mr Gingrich's call for a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced federal budget by the year 2000. That was 12 more than the required two-thirds majority. Just two Republicans voted against, while 72 Democrats voted for.

By contrast Mr Clinton is having terrible trouble rallying even his own Democrats behind the Mexican peso stabilisation package, and few Republican congressmen are willing to stick their necks out until he does.

The vote has been repeatedly delayed as umpteen top officials have visited Capitol Hill to warn of dire consequences for American jobs, illegal immigration and other Latin American economies if the package is not approved. Congressional leaders of both parties have lent their backing, but rank-and-file congressmen are staunchly resisting a package that has negligible popular support.

Mr Gingrich said Mr Clinton had failed to make a persuasive case for the rescue plan and winning approval would now be very difficult. James Exon, a senior Democratic senator, warned that "what support there was is collapsing in dramatic fashion".

Mr Gingrich hailed Thursday night's balanced budget vote as a "historic moment for the country" and proclaimed: "We kept our promise."

One of his first actions after the vote was to telephone former President Reagan in California. His victory was marred only by his colleagues' rejection of a provision requiring a three-fifths "supermajority" for any future tax increases. This measure was designed to discourage Congress from balancing the budget through raising taxation instead of spending cuts.

The Bill now goes to the Senate where it is expected to squeak through even though Robert Byrd, a veteran Democrat, has vowed to use all his undisputed mastery of Senate procedure to defeat it.

Thereafter it would need ratifying by 38 of the 50 states. Some fear they would suffer grievously from the drastic spending cuts the measure would require.

However, Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman, yesterday predicted that by the end of 1996 it would have become only the 28th amendment to the Constitution in 203 years. The Bill requires a balanced annual budget from 2002, permitting a deficit only in times of war, if there is an imminent threat to national security, or if there is a three-fifths majority in both the House and Senate.

That means finding a staggering $1,200 billion in savings or extra revenue over the next seven years when the entire annual federal budget is only $1,500 billion. The White House privately believes the measure, popular in the abstract, will prove hugely unpopular when Republicans start slashing cherished federal programmes. Mr Clinton again challenged the Republicans yesterday to spell exactly which programmes they would cut.

The vote nonetheless symbolised the huge upheaval that has transformed American politics over the past three months.

Three times since 1990 House conservatives had tried and failed to enact a balanced budget amendment. This time it swept through, the only real doubt being about how strict it would be.

Mr Gingrich managed to dissuade the 73 Republican freshmen, his shock troops, from defeating any Bill without the "supermajority" provision only by promising them another vote later in the year.

Hiroshima bombing exhibition shelved

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

RETREATING in the face of an almighty uproar, the Smithsonian Institution is preparing to cancel a major exhibition on the atomic bombing of Japan, which was due to open in May.

Michael Heyman, the Smithsonian's secretary, will recommend to the Institution's Board of Regents on Monday that almost the whole exhibition, apart from the fuselage of the *Enola Gay*, the B29 which bombed Hiroshima, should be dismantled.

The exhibition, "The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War Two", sparked controversy from the moment it was mooted a year ago, with critics saying that it portrayed the Japanese as victims and the Americans as ruthless aggressors bent on avenging Pearl Harbor.

The dispute reached its climax last week when Martin Harwit, director of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, reduced the exhibition's estimate of the number of American GIs who would have died in an invasion of Japan from 229,000 to 63,000. He based the estimate on one historian's interpretation of a single document.

The American Legion demanded the cancellation of the show and 81 Republican congressmen demanded Mr Harwit's resignation. Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican leader, called for hearings to be held on the Smithsonian's future events.

THE first known drawings of Mickey Mouse, above, are to go on public view at a new museum in Florida. The 1927 drawings by Ub Iwerks, the Dutch animator, are storyboards for *Plane Crazy*, the first short cartoon film featuring the world's most famous rodent. The silent film shows Mickey attempting to build a plane and learn to fly in order to emulate Charles Lindbergh's historic flight across the Atlantic. Among the ensuing disasters is Mickey's attempt to kiss his passenger, Minnie Mouse, who bails out using her bloomers as a parachute. Iwerks, who is credited with creating Mickey Mouse, sold his interest in his artist's studio to his partner and former room-mate, Walt Disney and his brother Roy for $2,920. He died in 1971. Walt Disney initially wanted to name the new character Mortimer Mouse, but his wife's preference for Mickey prevailed. The six *Plane Crazy* drawings, each 9ins by 10ins were donated to the International Museum of Cartoon Art in Boca Raton by Stephen Geppi, president of a firm distributing American comics. Mort Walker, the museum's founder and creator of Beetle Bailey plans to put the collection on display next year.

Mickey's first steps on show

Liaisons drove bishop to suicide

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IN AN extraordinary confession, church officials have revealed that the bishop of America's largest Anglican diocese killed himself after being involved in sexual liaisons of an "exploitative" nature.

The Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts, David Johnson, 61, was found dead at his home in a Boston suburb two weeks ago with a gunshot wound from his .22-calibre rifle.

At first, church officials were at a loss to explain why the popular bishop, who was due to retire in July and join his wife at a house they had bought in Kansas, should have committed suicide. But shortly after his death, several women came forward to say they had been involved with him in extramarital affairs.

The information prompted a defensive statement from the Episcopal Church, the American branch of the Anglican Church, which like other denominations has come under increasing attack for its failure to stop sexual impropriety by clergymen.

"It is clear that Bishop Johnson was involved in several extramarital relationships at different times throughout his years of ministry, both as a priest and bishop," the statement said.

"At least some of these relationships appear to have been of the character of sexual exploitation."

The church defines sexual exploitation as the abuse of ecclesiastic authority to gain sexual favours. The statement was signed by the Episcopal Church's top official, Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning, as well as the incoming Bishop of Massachusetts, Thomas Shaw.

The church hierarchy refused to name the women involved, but said they were all adults.

The statement said the bishop, a former US nuclear bomber pilot, who had led the diocese since 1986, suffered from bouts of depression.

Lawyers fight ratings war as O.J. Simpson trial turns to farce

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IT WAS inevitable that within days the O.J. Simpson trial would degenerate into a courtroom farce, a televised spectacle more suited to the Super Bowl than the halls of Californian jurisprudence.

Before even the opening statements have been concluded, Mr Simpson has been portrayed as a wife-beater, stalker and ultimately a murderer. He has been defended as a charitable family man, hobbling arthritic athlete and undisputed victim of conspiracy.

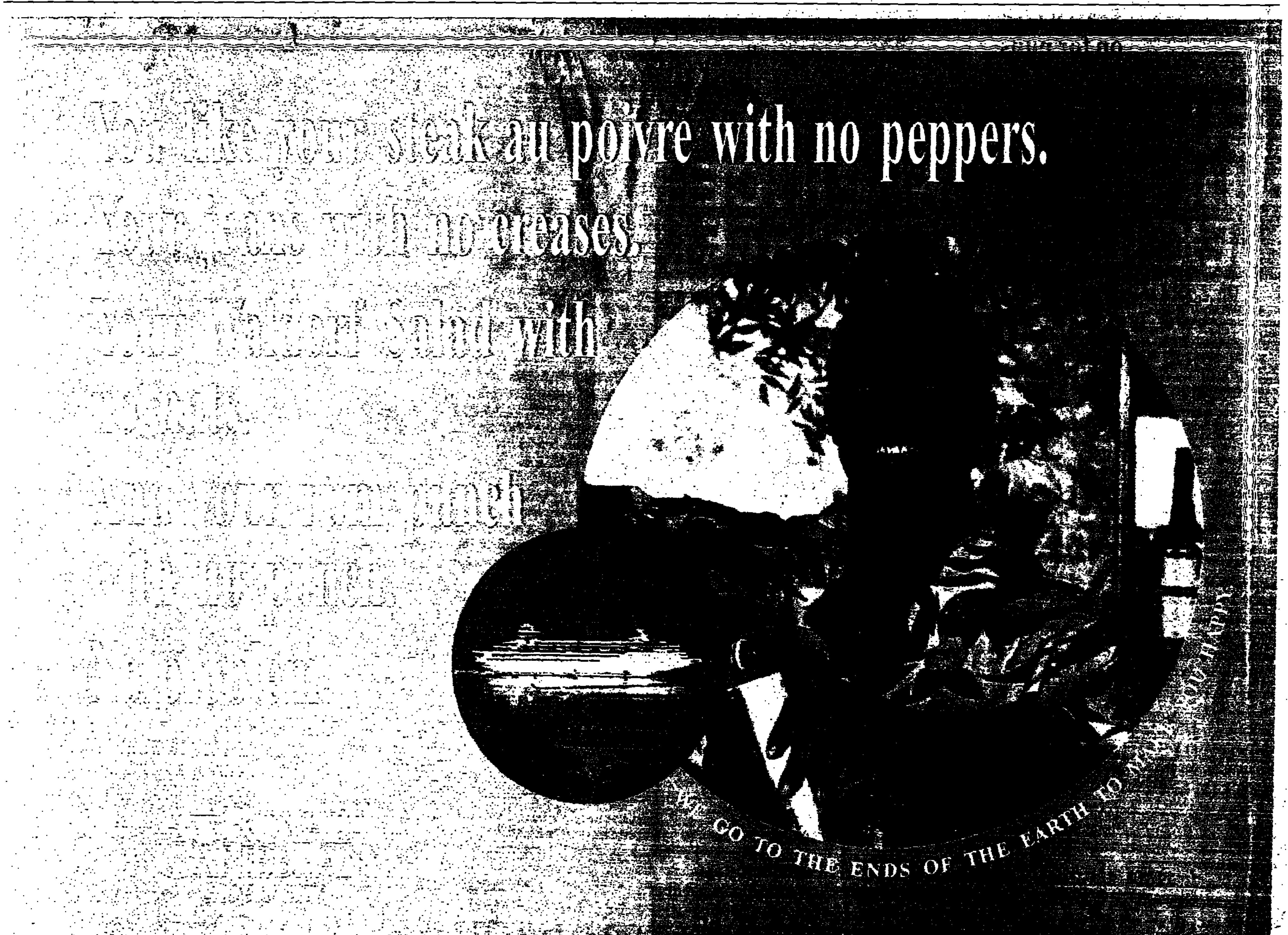
Finally, the voice of Mr Simpson has been heard denying that he murdered his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson. Tapes of his book, *I Want to Tell You*, reveal the following words from the former footballer: "How could anybody say I could have killed Nicole? How could anybody say that? Don't they understand that I would jump in front of a bullet for Nicole?"

The timing of the release could not be better, of course, as the trial tumbles into disarray. The television ratings are low and the public is not expected to show interest for much longer in a case that might last up to a year. Meanwhile, both the prosecution and defence teams are clearly determined that they will have the last word in the relentless screenplay now showing across a diverse band of local and national television stations.

One prosecutor has been admitted to hospital and Mr Simpson's so-called "dream team" has been accused of misconduct for suddenly introducing a host of new witnesses. Against all expectations, the trial of the century has indeed been transformed into some of the most captivating viewing in decades for a foreign audience less inured to the eccentricities of the American judiciary. Even the belated order by Judge Lance Ito, preventing a moving camera in his courtroom after a reserve juror was inadvertently filmed, has not diminished the sheer intrigue in the drama.

The judge has been prepared to listen to hour upon hour of procedural debate which should have been resolved in minutes by any British court. There is little pretence that the trial is anything more than televised theatre in which the anchormen and commentators are both judge and jury.

Mr Simpson denies murdering Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, her friend. The trial has been adjourned until Monday.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Fraud claims sully Italian football as Dini takes on task of cleaning up political arena

Napoli players fall foul of corruption inquiry

ROME FILE
by JOHN PHILLIPS

ITALIANS disgusted with the alleged skulduggery of their crooked politicians passionately follow football and other sports for light relief. But a series of scandals has rocked the sporting world recently, depressing fans who believed that their heroes were immune from corruption.

Magistrates in Naples, acting on a tip from a supergrass, have questioned 12 former and present players of the Napoli football club about allegations that they deliberately lost the 1988 national cup at the behest of the Camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, which was worried that it would have to pay out too much money to fans who bet on *totonero*, its illegal football pool sweepstake.

Napoli, which was captained by Diego Maradona, the Argentinian star, was expected to win the cup but mysteriously lost a five-point lead after players were entertained by gangsters at the Cachaca, a nightclub, where they were reported to have been given cocaine.

Napoli lost its first division lead on May 1, 1988, after a 2-3 defeat at home to A.C. Milan. Many heartbroken fans at the San Paolo stadium had bought their tickets from touts supplied by the Camorra, which obtained 20 per cent of all tickets printed and resold them.

Several players admitted this month that they had associated with *camorristi*. Massimo Crippa, an Italian international, was quoted admitting that he took cocaine at a party on a boat, the *Angelina Lauro*, after the club won the 1990 cup. Magistrates have issued an arrest warrant for Guillermo Coppola, Maradona's former manager, on charges of supplying players with cocaine from 1987 to 1990. Crippa was quoted as saying that a second boat drew alongside the *Angelina* and Señor Coppola, ignoring policemen at the festa, shouted "boys, here's the cocaine".

In Argentina, Señor Coppola dismissed the charges as "stupidities". Argentinian authorities are also hunting him over allegations that he ordered the murder of Leopoldo Armentano, a discotheque owner who owed him £120,000.

Two Neapolitan hoods, Enzo Buondonno, the owner of the Cachaca, and Rosario Viglione, were arrested this month on charges of supplying cocaine. Signor Viglione told police that players had told him about the plan to lose the cup. *Il Messaggero* said the players might be charged with fraud but are unlikely to receive stiff sentences. "The stain remains, the assertion that the Napoli team, that made people dream, was a volcano of coca in which happy players and *camorristi* wallowed."

Donatella Dini, who has a profitable business in Costa Rica

Turning 'the Toad' into a gentleman

LAMBERTO DINI, the Prime Minister, has not said yet whether he will follow the example of his boss at the Bank of Italy, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, and renounce his salary as head of the Government. His pension as a former director-general of the bank is likely to be less generous than that of Signor Ciampi, who was governor of the hallowed institution. If he survives only a few months in his new role at Palazzo Chigi, however, he will not have to maintain his wife, Donatella, whose business makes her the richest woman in Costa Rica.

Italy's first lady, 52, does not disclose how much she is worth but the turnover of her Zeta agriculture and construction empire is estimated at $300 million (£194 million) a year. Born into an aristocratic family in Cremona, she has done much to improve the manners of Signor Dini, 63, the son of a humble Florentine greengrocer.

The other day she chided him for eating bread and cheese in their kitchen with a Zeta manager. She also appears to have curbed his habit of throwing cherries in the air and catching them in his mouth, a hobby he developed while working in his father's shop. Their romance has intrigued Italians who wonder why she finds this severe man so attractive. His nickname with the press is *Il Rospo* — the Toad.

No show in Palermo

THE court hearing to decide whether Giulio Andreotti, Italy's former Prime Minister, should stand trial on Mafia charges was opened and adjourned yesterday — to give the defence more time to study newly submitted documents that are part of 88,000 pages of prosecution evidence against the seven-times Prime Minister. Andreotti, 76, did not attend the hearing in the Sicilian capital, Palermo.

Men 'sold slave' for £18 and two ducks

FROM ADAM LEBOR
IN BUDAPEST

HUNGARY'S rapid progress into the free market has reached its ultimate conclusion: trading in people and keeping them as slaves, according to the police.

In the village of Arokto in eastern Hungary, the police have arrested Istvan Molnar and his brother-in-law Ferenc Raffai and charged them with robbery and illegal confinement after a 61-year-old man was allegedly sold for 3,000 forints (£18) and two ducks. He was one of several pensioners said to be victims of the slave ring.

The two men allegedly scouted the nearby city of Miskolc for unemployed pensioners living destitute and lured them to Arokto with the promise of short-term jobs. Once the pensioners arrived, the men and members of their family kept them locked up, made them work long hours as slaves, stole their pensions and even traded the elderly people among each other as commodities, the police said.

"The aim was to live off the old people's pensions while spending as little on them as possible," Lieutenant Miklos Versenyi said. The victims were kept in sheds and given one meal a day; if they tried to escape, they were beaten. Some of the imprisoned pensioners had to do kitchen chores while others worked in the garden. Their imprisonment came to light when one escaped.

"They handed us some food at noon in metal bowls, like the ones they used to feed the dogs. We were treated like blacks in the old days," Judit Hajnal said.

Mr Molnar brought his first victim to Arokto last September, the police said, pocketing 72,000 forints of the man's pension over the next four months. Working with Mr Raffai, he picked up Mrs Hajnal, with two men in Miskolc in January. Mr Molnar presented Mrs Hajnal to his mother and sold one of the men for the 3,000 forints and two ducks, police said.

A third of Hungarians live in poverty. Worst affected are pensioners on a fixed income, often as little as 12,000 forints a month, while prices of staples such as bread and heating soar.

Lieutenant Versenyi said: "We managed to nip this gang in the bud, but I am worried that there are plenty of vulnerable old people out there and many crooks too."

[redacted]

Protests paralyse Kashmir

Jammu: The Kashmiri city of Jammu came to a standstill yesterday in protest against the failure of security forces to prevent bombings which killed eight people and injured 60 during an Indian Republic Day parade. Shops, schools and businesses closed and roads were almost empty as people answered a call by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party for a one-day general strike.

Several senior government officials and police officers have been suspended or transferred to other jobs. *(Reuter)*

Search goes on for nuns

Freetown: Seven nuns kidnapped by rebels in Sierra Leone are still missing, the military Government said. It retracted a statement saying they had been found and said the search for the six Italians and one Brazilian was continuing. Britain has advised its nationals to leave the country. Seven other kidnapped foreigners are also unaccounted for, but rebels holding two British aid workers snatched in November said they could be released soon. *(Reuter)*

Denktas will stand again

Nicosia: Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, said yesterday that he would stand again for the presidency of his breakaway state, recognised only by Turkey. "The people have been coming and asking me to run again. So I have decided to run." Mr Denktas said on his seventy-first birthday. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was formed after Turkish troops occupied the area in 1974. *(Reuter)*

'Single-shot' hero hailed

Seoul: North Korea yesterday honoured the soldier who with a "single shot" brought down the US helicopter that had strayed into its territory last month. The soldier was given the title "Hero of the Republic" and promoted to first lieutenant, Pyongyang's official Korea Central News Agency said. The unarmed reconnaissance helicopter strayed into North Korean airspace on December 17. *(AP)*

Britain not haven for terrorists, Hurd says

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS HURD, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday promised Bahrain's Foreign Minister that the Government would not allow Britain to become a haven for Islamic extremists.

Muhammad al-Khalifa said three Shia dissidents who have sought asylum in Britain were not democrats but were seeking to establish an extremist Islamic state in Bahrain. Shaikh al-Khalifa flew to Britain specially from Paris to discuss the arrival here of Ali Salman, Hamza al-Deiri and Haidar al-Sitri, whom the Bahrain Government accuses of being in the pay of Iran.

Earlier in the week Crown Prince Hamad al-Khalifa criticised Britain for allowing itself to become "a haven for terrorists and saboteurs," and suggested that Britain's close links with Bahrain would suffer if the three were granted asylum.

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صكنا من الاهل

Guerrillas vow to fight on after fall of their last bastion at Manerplaw

Burmese troops capture Karen rebel stronghold

By James Pringle

BURMA'S hardline military dictators yesterday struck a devastating blow against opposition forces when a reported 15,000 Burmese troops captured Manerplaw, the last stronghold of Karen guerrillas struggling for autonomy within Burma since 1948.

About 10,000 refugees have sought sanctuary in Thailand, while 1,000 Karen rebels pulled out of the strategic jungle base on the Moei River at 9am yesterday, according to a spokesman for the Karen National Union. The loss of the base will seriously weaken the 4,000-strong group.

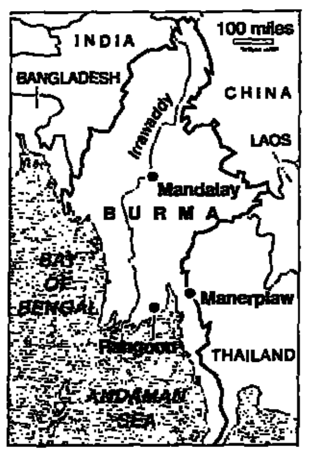
One guerrilla source said that Rangoon troops entered the Karen base yesterday morning and burnt those buildings not already set on fire by retreating rebels.

Observers said the defeat would have serious consequences for groups opposed to the Burmese junta, which last week quashed hopes that Aung San Suu Kyi, the cofounder of the opposition National League for Democracy and Nobel laureate, who has been under house arrest for more than five years, would be released soon. Her democracy league won more than 80 per cent of the seats in the 1990 elections, but the junta refused to recognise the results.

The regime has been buoyed by the rapid development of the moribund Burmese economy. The victory against the guerrillas would make the junta, headed by Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chief of intelligence, even less likely to compromise with the demands of opposition groups. The Karen group is the biggest of four insurgency organisations still fighting the junta.

"It is a major defeat in the loss of ground, but morale is still quite high," one Karen rebel said. "We will continue to fight."

Given the rugged terrain, a Conradian landscape of malaria-infested jungle and rock outcrops, the Burmese military achievement was considerable but probably incurred significant loss of life among the ranks. The army uses conscripts, often seized from smaller Burmese towns and villages, who carry mortar shells and food supplies on their backs like mules.



The US State Department sent a message to the Rangoon Government yesterday, urging it "to act in accordance with its own oft-stated intent to resolve its difficulties with Burma's ethnic minorities peacefully".

Aung Myint, a member of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, acknowledged that the loss of Manerplaw was a "major defeat", but said the rebels would penetrate deep into Burma and launch guerrilla warfare.

Having seen the bodies of Burmese army porters, shot by Burmese soldiers and with their hands bound behind their backs, floating down the Salween and Moei Rivers, such a guerrilla warfare strategy would appear hard to implement, given the harshness of the terrain and the difficulty of obtaining food and fresh ammunition.

The present offensive has taken place three years after Rangoon declared a unilateral ceasefire to convince the dozen or so ethnic minority insurgencies to lay down their arms. All but four groups had done so.

Late last year, the Karen offered to negotiate an end to the war with Rangoon but they were rebuffed. The forces of the ruling military State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) began moving towards Manerplaw last month, and launched the final push a week ago. The army has 50 armoured personnel carirers 19 miles from Manerplaw, but may not be able to move in closer.

A largely Christian ethnic group, the Karen established close links with the British during the Second World War when they fought the Japanese occupiers of Burma. The guerrillas are said to have become disillusioned by the lack of British support.

A woman fighter in the Karen base at Manerplaw. The camp drew political activists

Tamils kickstart 'nation' run on oils and cologne

From Christopher Thomas in Jaffna City

THE Tamil Tigers' stronghold of Jaffna is a miracle of survival. There are 40-year-old Austins and Morris Oxfords that run, choking and clanking, on paraffin, paint thinner and eau de cologne. Vegetable oil helps drive modified diesel generators to bring a dim light or turn a slow fan in many houses. Oil lamps strapped to poles provide meagre street lighting in bombed-out Jaffna City.

The Jaffna peninsula has not only defied years of bombing, shelling and shortages, it has evolved into a nation of sorts. It is in effect Eelam, the ancient name for a Tamil homeland, with symbols and trappings of government and nationhood. To that extent, the Tigers have won their 12-year war for a separate state, even if it is blockaded by thousands of Sri Lankan forces.

If peace talks fail, and there is every chance they will, the bombing will resume and Jaffna, celebrating three weeks of truce after four years of unremitting battle, will bunker down again. The army finally has Tiger-held territory surrounded and allows its 800,000 civilians to receive only the bare essentials.

To replace the collapse of Sri Lankan authority the Tigers have built rudiments of government. There is a 222-page penal code, a court system, a revenue collection department, a police force and small jails for prisoners found guilty of crimes such as adultery and under-age sex.

There are 15 civilian judges, all Tiger combatants, both men and women, mostly in their early twenties. They can sentence a man to a firing squad for rape. They have done so only once, because there is little crime in this autocratic enclave. Kalki Somanderam, 25, a female Tiger, is by day a bow-tied, black-jacketed judge but at night she returns to barracks. She studied at the Law College of Tamil Eelam, established three years ago by the Tigers. "We are guided by our leader," she said.

Prabhakaran: built up personality cult

The leader is Velupillai Prabhakaran, 40, who founded the Tigers in 1975. Since then he has built a personality cult: his picture is everywhere, his words are on tape, in the Tiger-run newspaper and on Tiger radio, and his diktat is final. The mystique is enhanced by rare public appearances.

The peninsula seems at the end of the world. With roads and railways closed, getting there from the mainland requires permission from both sides followed by a perilous journey on little boats through the thrashing Jaffna lagoon.

The Colombo Government maintains an official presence in Jaffna in a bizarre, tacit arrangement. It has a big administrative office — bombed by its own air force and rebuilt at substantial cost — with civil servants who receive monthly salaries. They are all Tamils whose allegiance is to the Tigers, not the Sinhalese-dominated Government that pays them. They are largely idle.

Royal couple home amid quake anger

From Gwen Robinson in Tokyo

JAPAN'S Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako abruptly cut short a visit to Jordan yesterday amid growing public disquiet over the failure by any member of the imperial household to visit areas stricken by last week's earthquake.

The move came as speculation grew that the Princess of Wales would visit the disaster zone during a three-day working visit next month planned before the earthquake struck. Japanese officials said a visit to the ancient city of Petra was suddenly cancelled as Japan's royal couple were recalled "due to the situation arising out of the earthquake which shook Japan's Kobe city".

However, commentators yesterday praised the Princess of Wales's concern for the quake victims and lamented the inaction of their own royalty.

"The Japanese imperial family should be the ones to visit and give comfort to the victims. Does it take a British princess to show them how to do it?" asked a Japanese journalist. More than 5,000 people were killed in Kobe.

Disaster turns perceptions of Japanese upside down

By Peregrine Hodson

THE earthquake that shook Japan last week has uncovered hidden strengths and weaknesses in the country, which normally lie unseen beneath its surface of bland modernity.

The disaster and its aftermath revealed that several stereotypes of Japan — its reputation for efficiency, organisation and planning and its national "homogeneity" — are little more than myths in the minds of foreigners, or comfortable illusions in the minds of the Japanese.

In a country known for its frequent quakes, how could they be so dangerously unprepared? More than most, the Japanese tend to ignore uncomfortable problems. Almost every foreigner in Japan has had the unnerving experience of asking a Japanese a question — only to meet no reaction.

Rather than face the difficulty of talking to a foreigner, they pretend not to notice. Earthquakes, another potential problem, are treated the same way. Why else build the megalopolis of Tokyo on a major seismic fault that has juddered catastrophically at regular, 70-year intervals?

The quake has also laid bare other deep fault lines. The effective power vacuum at the heart of Japanese government explains its maddeningly slow response to offers of assistance from other countries. Without a centre capable of making executive decisions, no one can give orders, deal with foreigners or direct operations. No one is responsible. The result is a dangerous absence of accountability. Forty-eight hours after the earthquake. I interviewed heads of Kobe's health, environment, water supply and sewage departments. Going from one department to another, asking the same questions and receiving different answers, it was clear how little communication there was between them. I wanted to find who was responsible for the purity of the water supply.

Even the most basic calculations of the city's water requirements were inadequate. But the water supply chief who committed suicide this week was not to blame. He was a victim of the curious structure of Japanese society, which imprisons citizens in a vertical system of ranking.

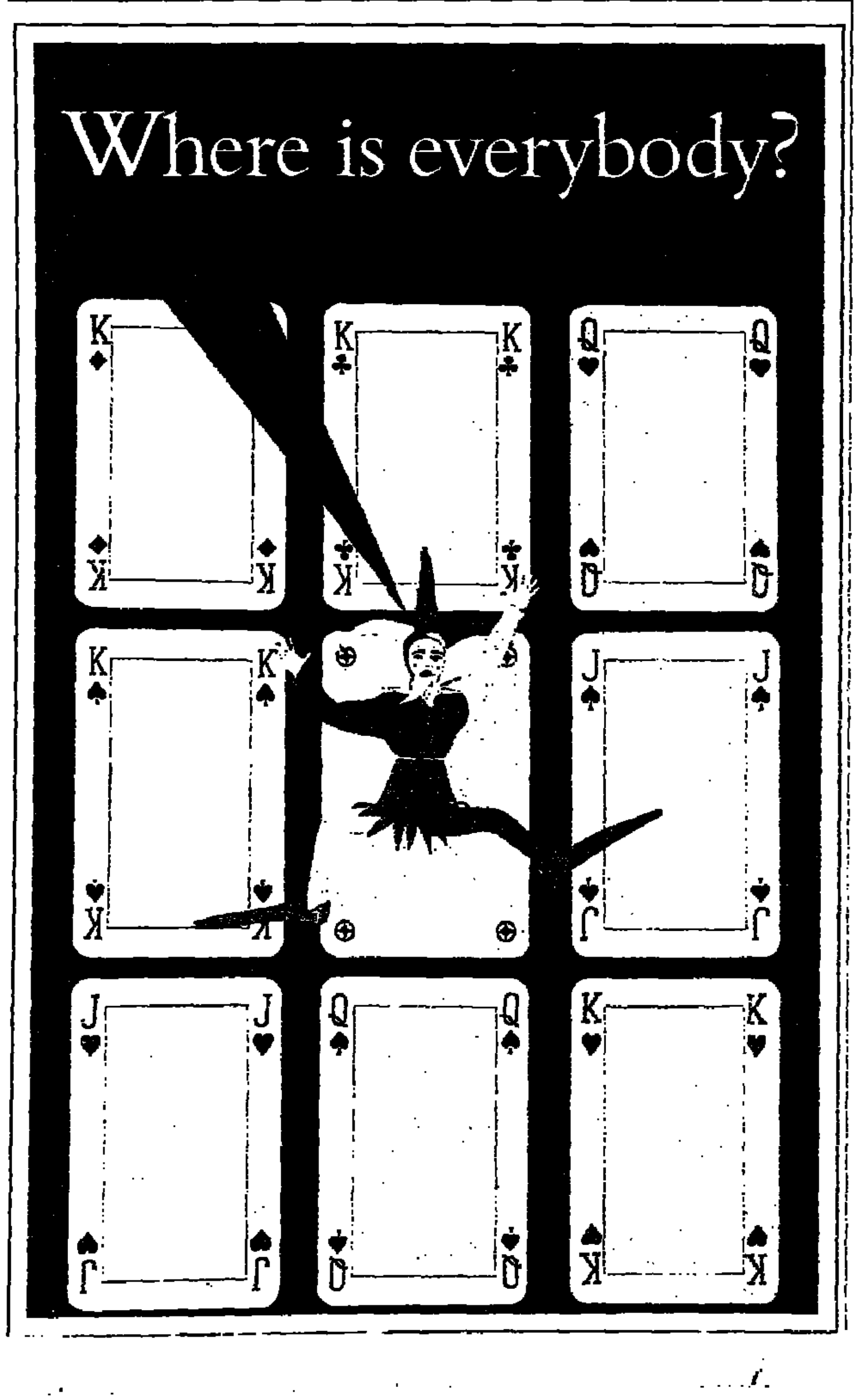
Watching a long line of several hundred earthquake refugees queueing for food, meekly enduring the bullying rudeness of a 70-year-old volunteer policeman, the weak-kneed attitude of the Japanese towards authority was clear. By contrast, in the same people, self-discipline and honesty were shining virtues.

Showing emotion in the face of loss, however great, is a sign of weakness and, ultimately, a loss of face. Considerations of face may also have been behind the Japanese Government's rejection of foreign aid.

Most Japanese are too timid to ask a favour of a stranger, and they are not keen to offer help to someone they do not know. The risk of losing face, or becoming involved in another's difficulties, outweighs any possible advantage. This pragmatism may seem callous to strangers, yet the Japanese are careful to look after their own. Japan's unthinking obedience to tradition has shown itself in other ways. At the few traffic lights still operating in Kobe, flashing their warning over deserted crossings and highways blocked by rubble, citizens still wait dutifully for them to change before crossing the road.

In Kobe, ambulances carrying injured quake victims waited with their sirens wailing behind a line of cars, rather than break the rules and switch out of their proper lane.

Some of the strengths that seem to constitute Japan the superpower now seem more like liabilities. At the same time, in the world turned upside down following the disaster, the unobtrusive qualities of endurance, patience and self-control which many Westerners might dismiss as Japan's weaknesses, may prove to be the country's greater strengths.


Where is everybody?

Jail where China dissident was held boasts key reforms

From James Pringle in Peking

WEI JINGSHENG, China's leading dissident, once described Qincheng prison, set in a pleasant landscape north of Peking, a "20th century Bastille".

Mr Wei spent part of his earlier 15-year sentence there, and former prisoners have included Jiang Qing, wife of Chairman Mao, and Liu Shaoqi, the head of state purged and left to die of untreated illness during the Cultural Revolution.

However, a leading prison official in the Ministry of Justice said yesterday that a new prison law which went into effect last month should strengthen the protection of prisoners' rights even at Qincheng, which is the only jail in China run not by the ministry but by the Public Security Bureau.

The official, who spoke on condition that he not be named, said that neither Mr Wei, nor his secretary Tong Yi, was now in prison, though he declined to say where they had been held since their disappearance. Ms Tong was believed to have been sentenced last month to two and half years without trial.

Mr Wei, a former electrician at Peking's zoo and a charismatic political figure, led the 1979 Democracy Wall movement and has been compared to another electrician, Lech Walesa, the former Polish Solidarity leader and now President of Poland. He has continued speaking out for democracy until his renewed detention.

Wei: one of nearly 2,700 political prisoners

The official could not, however, explain why Qincheng, where Mr Wei spent ten arduous years, was not under the Ministry of Justice, but he did say he believed that living conditions there were "now a bit better" than other jails.

The official said that there were 1,285,000 prisoners in China's 690 jails, including 27,000 women and 10,000 minors. He said there were 2,679 people convicted as "counter-revolutionaries" — whom human rights activists outside China call political prisoners. Many were jailed for anti-government protests in Tiananmen Square during June 1989.

The disclosures came after John Shattuck, American Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, said that there had been "no improvement" in China's human rights record since he was here early last year.

☐ **Copenhagen:** A group of Danish parliamentarians yesterday nominated Mr Wei for the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize. *(Reuter)*

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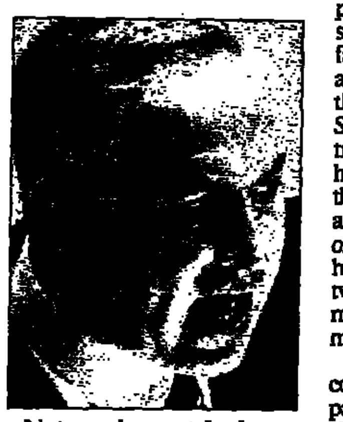
Israeli poll shows mood to halt talks

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

ISRAELI and Arab opinion surveys published yesterday showed a drastic polarisation of views with a majority of Israelis opposing the peace process for the first time and a majority of Palestinians in favour of increased suicide attacks against Jewish targets.

The polls were published on the eve of tonight's mass rally of Israelis led by Chief Rabbi Israel Lau in support of President Ezer Weizman's call for a temporary halt to peace negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. They showed that support for the Labour Government has collapsed to an extent not imagined a few weeks ago.

According to the Motagim Institute, which questioned 501 Israeli Jews in the wake of last Sunday's suicide attack which cost 20 Jewish lives — the twentieth died yesterday — 50 per cent would support Benyamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Likud leader, and only 28 per cent would back Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Prime Minister, if elections due next year were held now. The poll reflected public anger at Mr Rabin's refusal to heed Mr Weizman's advice and announce at least a limited halt in the peace talks with the PLO. In a rash of street demonstrations around the country, Mr Rabin has been denounced as a "traitor" and the a new political slogan, "Rabin is guilty," has appeared. Mr Netanyahu, nearly 30 years younger than his Labour rival, has pledged to end the peace talks, stage a new security clampdown against suspected terrorists — even those in autonomous Gaza and Jericho — and scrap promises to hand back more of the land conquered in the 1967 war. He has recently patched up differences with other right-wing leaders, notably reserve general Ariel Sharon, a former Likud Defence Minister.



Netanyahu: patched up political differences

Even more humiliating for Mr Rabin than his slumping popularity was the finding of another poll in Israel's biggest-selling newspaper *Yediot Ahronot*, in which Israelis were asked whether the Prime Minister's emergency televised address after the Beit Lid massacre had contributed to their "sense of personal safety"; 61 per cent said "No"; 19 per cent said the speech had decreased their sense of security, and only 10 per cent said "Yes". A further 10 per cent did not answer.

In the same poll, 71 per cent of Israelis said the President was correct to issue his public call for a temporary halt to the peace talks and only 27 per cent claimed he was wrong, although his action has been widely criticised by government ministers as exceeding the ceremonial role of his office. Privately, many were reported as "livid" with his action, which has been seized on as a clarion call by those wanting the talks scrapped.

The poll found that, for the first time since the peace accord was signed, a majority of Israelis are against any continuation of it. Asked if the peace process should be stopped, 51 per cent were in favour and 46 per cent against. The *Yediot* poll was the most comprehensive since Sunday's massacre traumatised a society already highly emotional because of the events marking the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Many Israelis have made comparisons between the Nazis and Islamic militants who have threatened more suicide attacks.

The mayors and heads of 44 councils across Israel and parts of the occupied territories will attend tonight's demonstration. It is being staged at the scene of Sunday's outrage.

Tens of thousands of posters have appeared under the slogan: "We should listen to the President. We must have a temporary halt. It cannot go on this way", and buses have been organised from every part of the country.

A poll of 737 Palestinians conducted by the Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion in the occupied territories, found that a majority of 53 per cent would now like to see more "military actions" by Palestinians — meaning more incidents like Beit Lid.

Just over 33 per cent opposed violence and 13 per cent had no reply. Nabil Kokali, who conducted the poll, explained the jump in support for attacks against Jews as being linked to "growing anger over the continuing expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land."

South African police officers arrest their colleagues as the Soweto mutiny is brought to a bloody end

Soweto policeman killed in mutiny

Johannesburg: A warrant officer was killed yesterday as riot police put down a mutiny by more than 140 policemen at Orlando police station in the Soweto township outside Johannesburg.

The officers earlier had barricaded themselves inside the police station to press for the removal of five white colleagues whom they accuse of racism.

Colonel Ray Harrald said that the mutineers had refused to negotiate and the station was stormed by members of the Dog Squad and the Internal Stability Unit (the riot squad). He said that Warrant Officer Jabulani Xaba had been killed while firing on an arresting officer. Reporters said, however, that he had been shot while raising his hands in the air.

Tomorrow, President Mandela will announce the appointment of Major-General George Fivaz, a relatively junior officer, as South Africa's police chief. Most of his career has been spent in administration.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Doctor released on bail

Harare: Richard McGown, the anaesthetist sentenced to six months in jail for causing the deaths of two young patients through negligence, has spent a night in prison despite being granted bail by Zimbabwe's most senior judge (Jan Raath writes).

On Thursday Chief Justice Anthony Gubbay reinstated McGown's bail and overturned the trial judge's ruling that he stay in custody pending his appeals. But McGown was not freed until yesterday because a court official did not supply his lawyer with all the necessary documents.

Tapie loses

Paris: The Court of Appeal rejected Bernard Tapie's plea to suspend a commercial court ruling declaring him personally bankrupt and thus ineligible to hold public office for five years. *(Reuter)*

Hanoi deal

Washington: The United States finally announced plans to open political liaison offices with Vietnam today and to sign two agreements settling property and other claims. *(Reuter)*

Last orders

Brisbane: A heavily armed man under police siege at his house near Gympie in Queensland refused to negotiate until he was given a case of beer. The police refused and cleared the area. *(Reuter)*

Gambian leaders held after 'assassination attempt'

From Reuter in Banjul

THE GAMBIA'S military ruler, Captain Yahya Jammeh, said yesterday that two trusted associates who helped him to seize power in the west African state last July had tried to kill him and been arrested. A statement from his office said that Vice-President Captain Sana Sabally, the Vice-President, and Captain Sadibou Haidara, the Interior Minister, had opposed recommendations for an earlier handover to civilian rule. "This morning, the two captains, armed with pistols, attempted to kill the chairman, but were neutralised and placed under arrest."

Captain Jammeh caused protests in November when he said he did not plan to hand over power until the end of 1998. Western donors have stopped most government-to-government aid, and the British Government's advice against travel has crippled the country's vital tourist industry.

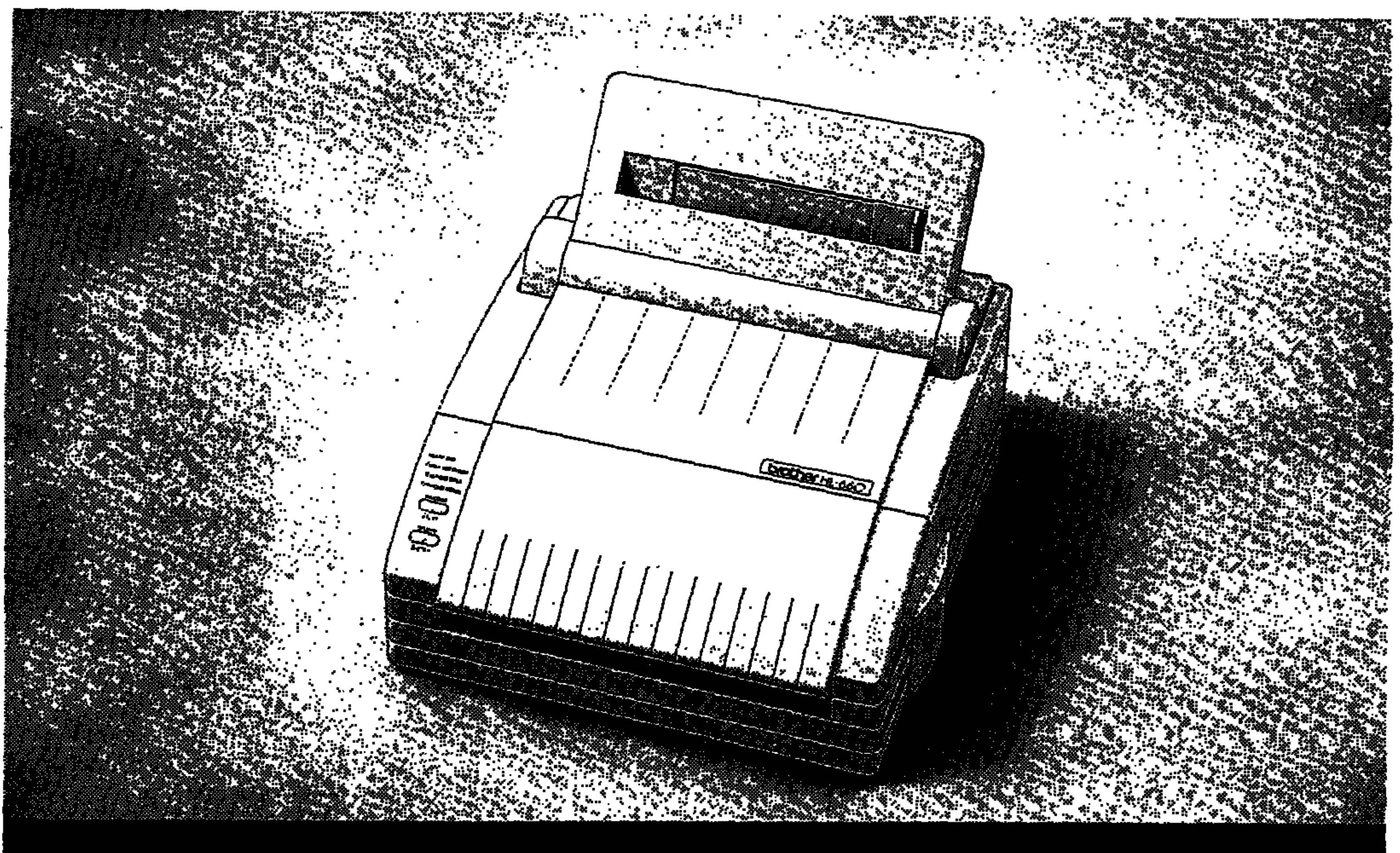
A civilian committee set up to study the issue submitted its report yesterday. Official sources said it recommended that the governing military should stand down after 18 to 24 months.

Women say colonel should go

Jerusalem: Jewish women's rights campaigners, politicians and a Cabinet minister have called for the dismissal of a leading military commander who offended Israeli women by telling school pupils that historically men were warriors and women were prostitutes (Christopher Walker writes).

Colonel Gershon Hacohen, Commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade, was reprimanded for his remarks, which have shocked a nation in which women are drafted at the age of 18 for a compulsory tour of 19 months. Calling his statement "offensive and humiliating", the Army said women were essential to the Israeli armed forces.

Israeli radio phone-in programmes have been flooded by complaints and legal proceedings have started to see if the outburst was defamatory. The colonel said: "I apologise to anyone who felt insulted ... even my wife gave me hell."



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Tea, tissues and tins for refugees sent to Russian migration centres

By Eve-Ann Prentice
Diplomatic Correspondent

■ Russians displaced from Grozny are being dispatched to other parts of the country. Many would prefer to stay closer to home

RUSSIAN refugees from the slaughter in Grozny are being sent by train to "migration centres" in Russia, even though most want to stay near the Chechen border ready to return home at the first opportunity, according to a senior United Nations official.

Russian government officials are tracing the displaced Russians in Ingushetia and Dagestan. Bewildered refugees are then "given a small cash handout, a railway ticket and sent off to the migration centres in other parts of Russia", Larry Hollingworth, of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said. Although the Russian refugees are not forced to go to the centres — sometimes in remote places such as Perm in Siberia — many feel they have no option, a UN source said. Stringent laws prevent people from travelling and settling anywhere they wish in Russia and the Russian refugees can usually find legal status only as displaced people at the centres.

Described as rudimentary, the centres have been set up across Russia since 1993 to cope with refugees from unrest in such places as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as Chechenia. "There is no forced deportation," a UN official said, "but there is fear of forced deportation." Another said: "No one knows what Moscow's long-term plans are and some Russians from Chechenia fear they will be dispersed in other regions of Russia." Those who take the rail tickets to the centres are given a "very small packet of food, some tea, a tissue and a can of something", the official added.

Speaking from Makhachkala, the Dagestan capital, where many women with children and the elderly have fled to escape the fighting in Chechenia, Mr Hollingworth said: "Most want to go back. The Chechens and the Russians say they can live together again. The problem is many will have no homes to go back to and someone will have to pay to repair the destruction."

"Freedom of movement is very difficult for the Russians," a UNHCR official said. "If the refugees have close relatives, they can join them, but only if it is a mother or a sister, someone very close."

While the authorities in Moscow are sending some Russian refugees to the migration centres, Chechen refugees in neighbouring Dagestan and Ingushetia have been housed with local families. "There are 80,000 in Ingushetia and 60,000 in Dagestan and about 95 per cent have been accommodated with families. Once a host cupboard is bare, we feel our duty is to help to provide food and blankets," Mr Hollingworth said. Conditions are crowded, however, with an average of 25 to a room. "There are a lot of children, but all are fit and well."

Russia is allowing the UNHCR to operate from Dagestan and Ingushetia, but not from Chechenia. Seventy tonnes of food, clothing and medicine arrived in Dagestan on Thursday and another 74 tonnes is due to arrive this morning. The International Committee of the Red Cross has begun operating inside Chechenia and this week started a message service between the embattled citizens of Grozny and friends and relatives outside.

Tony Burgener, of the Red Cross, said in Geneva: "We distribute forms which people can use to write a personal message to someone outside. The messages must have no political content and we deliver them to the friends and relatives, then bring a reply back."

Mr Burgener said that local officials, who probably had no clear directions from Moscow, were causing some delays to the delivery of international aid. The Red Cross is hoping to deliver aid for 400,000 people during the next six months.

Grozny shelling worsens as West sends fact-finders

From Anatol Lieven in Moscow

A WESTERN fact-finding mission left Moscow yesterday for the republic of Chechenia, but it remains an open question how closely they will be allowed to investigate. The Russian military yesterday refused to allow Sergei Kovalyov, a Russian human rights commissioner and a critic of the Chechenia operation, on to the delegates' plane.

As the fact-finding team set off, Russian forces in Grozny intensified their bombardment of the southern outskirts of the city, apparently in an effort to cut the last main road leading into the Chechen-held area of Brosna. The suburbs of Grozny were hit repeatedly and a Reuters photographer reported seeing dozens of civilian casualties.

Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen chief-of-staff, vowed yesterday to fight to the end for Grozny and then to launch a partisan war in the countryside and in neighbouring republics. "In the near future, military actions will move closer to the borders and beyond the borders of Chechenia," he told the Russian Interfax agency.

In Moscow yesterday, Russian Interior Ministry special troops who had returned from Grozny said 53 of their colleagues had been killed. They confirmed that 653 Chechen fighters had died. They claimed that the figure greatly underestimated the number of dead as the Chechens had dragged away their victims before they could be counted.

According to Western correspondents, this and other Russian official claims bear little relation to reality. In a debate in the lower House of the Russian parliament, several deputies accused the Government of lying about the operation. However, a resolution demanding the dismissal of General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, failed to get the necessary number of votes.

The United Nations announced yesterday that its first flights carrying supplies for Chechen refugees would leave Denmark this weekend for the neighbouring republic of Dagestan, where about 45,000 Chechen refugees are now concentrated.

The Western delegation that left Moscow yesterday was from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Before their departure, Istvan Gyarmati, the Hungarian diplomat leading the mission, admitted that the delegation would not be able to investigate specific human rights violations during its three-day visit, only one day of which is due to be spent in the Russian-held area.

Mr Gyarmati said that the OSCE could not mediate in the conflict, because "the parties do not consider it necessary and possible". However, he said, "we will stand ready to extend our role if we are asked". The Chechen Government would welcome such help but Russia is implacably opposed to international interference.

Mr Gyarmati said he had held "very important talks in a very good atmosphere" with leading Russian officials, and that they had shown a "great desire" for co-operation with the security organisation.

Had Mr Kovalyov been allowed to accompany the delegation, he would probably have quickly ended the friendly atmosphere. On Thursday, he advised the Council of Europe not to admit Russia as a member. In view of the bloodshed in Chechenia, "it would be blasphemy," he said. "Russia will not meet Europe's stringent criteria in the sphere of human rights for many years to come."

A masked officer from the Russian Interior Ministry forces speaks to a press conference yesterday

UN role in Bosnia defended

Rose scorns suggestion he was humiliated by Serbs

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

CHRIS HARRIS

General Rose answers journalists' queries at the Ministry of Defence yesterday

THE commander of the United Nations forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, yesterday defended his 12-month tour of duty. Back in London after handing over to another British officer, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, General Rose rejected claims that he had been humiliated by the Bosnian Serbs.

At a press conference at the Ministry of Defence, General Rose said: "I don't understand the word humiliation. How can peacekeepers be humiliated? We're not a war-fighting force. When we are working for peace on behalf of the people of that nation, how can we be humiliated?"

He said if someone with a gun stopped a UN-escorted aid convoy being delivered, "then he is humiliating himself in the face of his country".

Supported by Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, who listed the achievements made in Bosnia during General Rose's command, the former SAS chief also rejected allegations that he had been reluctant to use Nato air power to stop Serb aggression.

He said Nato had become an "indispensable" part of the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia but air strikes meant an escalation in the use of force and this was not always appropriate.

Answering critics who blamed him for not calling in Nato bombers over Bihac, the so-called UN safe area under Serb and pro-Serb rebel Muslim assault in the northwest of Bosnia, General Rose said he had asked for Nato air support but when the aircraft arrived the targets were no longer there.

He said Bihac involved a four-sided conflict and it was difficult to decide who was doing the shelling. But he insisted that Nato had acted as a deterrent because the Serbs had not entered Bihac town as they had threatened.

General Rose admitted there were many things he would have done differently during his command, including spending time in getting a more robust message across about the UN's "heroic successes" in Bosnia and the sacrifices being made by the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) troops and aid workers in the face of constant propaganda from the various factions.

Britain had had 12 soldiers killed in Bosnia and France more than 20. Yet the countries contributing troops to the force had felt it was worthwhile continuing the mission in the interests of finding a peaceful solution. "I don't believe we got that message across," he said. Denying that he was angry about all the criticism he had faced, he described it as "a fact of life".

Asked about Bosnian Government claims that he had been part of the problem, General Rose said accusations that he and the UN were pro-Serb flew in the face of the facts. "We are pro-peace, pro-humanity, pro-reason. I refuse to become an accomplice to propaganda," he said.

General Rose who is being promoted to Adjutant General in July, warned that if the arms embargo was lifted in favour of the Bosnian Government, and the UN was forced to leave, the consequences would be "catastrophic" for the country. Without UN aid, thousands more people would be displaced and killed, he said. He held out hope that the current ceasefire would last. "It's more than a ceasefire, it's a signed agreement to cease hostilities," he said.

General Rose plans to go to New York soon to brief the UN's peacekeeping department and to discuss ways of improving the structure of the mission in Bosnia.

Welcoming General Rose home, Mr Rifkind said: "There have been major improvements in Bosnia in the last 12 months. General Rose has played an important part in bringing them about."

He said a year ago Sarajevo was under continuous artillery bombardment from thousands of shells. "The UN has now helped to restore water, gas and electicity supplies and get the trams running again, and in central Bosnia the UN has been supervising a ceasefire which has allowed over 1,000 kilometres of roads to be built and repaired, schools to be reopened and refuse to be collected," Mr Rifkind said.

Secret passage poses pyramid mystery

By Simon Seligman

In the 1940s Edgar Cayce, the American clairvoyant, prophesied the discovery, in the last quarter of the 20th century and somewhere near the Sphinx, of a hidden chamber containing the historical records of Atlantis.

Whether recent discoveries in the Great Pyramid of Cheops have anything to do with that is far from certain, but the discovery of a small door at the end of a long, hitherto unexplored, 8in-square shaft has set many speculating about what, if anything, might lie behind it.

Exploration has been undertaken using a miniature robot of German manufacture, called Upuaut 2. The robot was built by Rudolf Gantenbrink under the auspices of the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo; it was mounted with a video camera and took an hour and a quarter to climb the 71-yard shaft, which ascends from the southern wall of the queen's chamber.

At the end the masonry is of tura limestone, only otherwise found outside the king's and queen's chambers. The culmination, 18 yards from the outer face, leaves an area sufficient for a chamber comparable in size to the other two.

The discovery has started a controversy. Herr Gantenbrink has put forward 14 pieces of evidence "suggesting that a cavity is more likely to exist than not". Many authorities do not agree. The Egyptian Supreme Council for Antiquities seems to be among them. Last April, after further finds of tools or ritual implements were made in the northern shaft, it shut down the project without saying why. No date for further investigation has been set.

One suggestion advanced for the reaction of the Egyptian authorities is that Herr Gantenbrink's attitude to the publicisation of the discovery is raising hackles. An academic source said Herr Gantenbrink's press releases had been "quite premature and overwritten. They [the Egyptian authorities] got the impression that he was doing this for his own reputation."

Herr Gantenbrink has now offered his robots to the antiquities council, free of charge, for use without him. The offer was made in June and accepted in October; nothing has happened since.

This week Herr Gantenbrink said: "My one concern is with science and investigation. There is now no logical reason that the work cannot go on."

Norway in fear of EU isolation

Stockholm: Prime Ministers of the five Nordic countries are to meet tomorrow to discuss the future of Nordic co-operation, with Norway fearing isolation outside the European Union (Nicholas George writes).

After voting against union membership last year, Norwegians are already having to get used to their new 1,450-mile border with the EU. Now they face a Swedish suggestion to slim down spending on Nordic co-operation.

The Copenhagen meeting will discuss the role of the Nordic Council, which was set up in 1953 as the organ for co-operation.

The council is made up of parliamentarians from Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland, and from the self-rule territories of Greenland, the Faroe Isles and the Baltic island of Aland. Now, with Finland and Sweden joining Denmark in the EU, politicians are questioning its purpose and expense.

Sarajevo journalist seized from UN

By Joel Brand in Sarajevo and Our Foreign Staff

UNITED Nations peacekeepers allowed Serb troops to enter their armoured vehicle and seize a 60-year-old Bosnian journalist, giving the new UN commander his first taste of the mission's contradictions.

Namik Berberovic, a Sarajevo-based television journalist, was seized within a few hours of the arrival of Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith on Thursday. The detention topped the British commander's agenda at a welcoming meeting with the Bosnian Serbs in their mountain stronghold of Pale, outside Sarajevo, yesterday.

The journalist, a Muslim, was travelling from Sarajevo's UN-controlled airport into the city inside a Russian armoured personnel carrier on a road ostensibly under UN control. A French officer who monitors the checkpoint persuaded the Serbs not to take three other Muslims from the UN vehicle. The UN said the Russian vehicle commander had erred in taking a route past a Serb checkpoint and then in opening his vehicle to the guards.

UN officials have been prevented from contacting Berberovic, who was last seen at the police headquarters in the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza.

The Contact Group of international peace negotiators yesterday postponed a planned meeting with the Bosnian Serbs in Pale after the Serbs refused to soften their rejection of wording related to the peace plan.

"The Contact Group can't speak our language," Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader said. "The Muslims are dictating the position of the Contact Group."

In Zagreb, Croatia's parliament yesterday endorsed President Tudjman's decision to cancel the UN peacekeeping mandate in Croatia at the end of March, despite pressure from the West to reconsider.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report January 28 1995

Trader liable to 12 years of VAT

Bjellica v Commissioners of Customs and Excise

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Saville

[Judgment January 13]

A trader making taxable supplies who failed to register for value-added tax for 12½ years was nevertheless under an obligation to submit returns and pay VAT for that period.

Accordingly, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise were entitled to issue a notice of assessment demanding payment of the tax for the whole period and the trader was liable to pay the tax even when he had not collected it from his customers.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Vide Bjellica, from the decision of Mr Justice Leonard (*The Times* October 20, 1993) who had upheld the decision of a London VAT Tribunal that he was liable to an assessment of VAT for the period April 21, 1975 to October 31, 1987 in the amount of £18,250.58.

When the taxpayer started trading in 1974 he engaged the services of a chartered accountant to deal with his accounts and tax affairs. *At no time before 1987 was he* advised to register for VAT.

From 1975 to 1987 the taxpayer had traded as an unregistered trader, not collecting VAT from his customers. On October 8, 1987 he applied for registration and was registered with effect from November 1, 1987. Thereafter VAT returns were submitted by him.

As a result of a routine visit by an excise officer in September 1989, the taxpayer was required to give details of his turnover dating back to 1975. On January 3, 1990 the commissioners directed that the taxpayer should furnish a return for the period April 21, 1975 to October 31, 1987.

The taxpayer's advisers claimed that the setting of an accounting period longer than 12 months was invalid by reason of article 22(4) of the European Community's Sixth Council Directive No 77/388/EEC of May 17, 1977 (OJ 1977 L145 p1).

The commissioners contended that the issue of a return for a period in excess of one year was permitted by article 22(8) of the directive. On May 15, 1990 the commissioners notified the taxpayer of an assessment in the sum of £18,250.58.

The taxpayer's appeal to the VAT tribunal was dismissed.

Mr Michael Sherry for the taxpayer; Mr Michael Kent for the commissioners.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that counsel for the taxpayer placed great reliance on the fact that until the Value Added Tax (General) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1976 No 1234) came into operation on September 6, 1976 there was no obligation on the taxpayer under the regulations then in force to furnish a return. Under regulation 51 of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations (SI 1975 No 204) the obligation to furnish a return was imposed on "every registered person".

It was not until regulation 51 was amended in 1976 that the obligation was extended to "every person who ... was or is required to be registered". It was therefore submitted that the notice of assessment was in any event bad in so far as it related to any period before *the 1976 Regulations came into* force because until the amendment it could not be said that the *taxpayer had failed to make a* return. He was not "a registered person".

His Lordship would reject that argument. Counsel for the commissioners drew the court's attention to section 4(1) of the Finance Act 1972 which provided: "A person who makes or intends to make taxable supplies is a taxable person while he is or is required to be registered under this Part of this Act."

By paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the 1972 Act "a person who makes taxable supplies but is not registered is liable to be registered..." in the circumstances set out in the Schedule. It was not in dispute that the taxpayer was required to be registered.

Section 31(1) of the 1972 Act was in similar terms to paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 7 to the Value Added Tax Act 1983. The commissioners were empowered under section 31(1) to make an assessment where a taxable person had failed to make a return required under the Act.

In the light of the definition of "a taxable person" in section 4(1) and the power conferred on the commissioners to make assessments where a taxable person had failed to make any returns required under the Act, his Lordship was not prepared to construe regulation 51 in its unamended form, that is, before the 1976 amendment, so as to confer some protection on those who ought to have registered but failed to do so.

Nor did his Lordship accept the argument that the obligation to *make a return was dependent* on the receipt of an appropriate form from the commissioners. Here *again, as it seemed to his Lordship,* the taxpayer's status as a taxable person imposed an obligation on *him to make sure the tax was paid.*

It followed that the taxpayer was under an obligation to make VAT returns throughout the whole period from April 21, 1975 onwards. He failed to do so. Accordingly, the commissioners were entitled to make a notice of assessment in May 1990.

As for the Sixth Directive, it was quite clear in his Lordship's view from the preamble and the other provisions of the directive that the purpose of insisting in article 22(4) that returns should be for periods not in excess of one year was to ensure that member states set up systems which led to regular flows of tax revenue.

Article 22(4) was not intended to prevent or inhibit the collection of tax from those who, however innocently, had continued to trade without paying tax. His Lordship concluded that article 22(8) should be construed so as to give effect to the general purpose of the directive.

His Lordship was satisifed that *the notice of assessment was valid.* It did not infringe any of the provisions of the Sixth Directive *nor was it contrary to United* Kingdom domestic legislation.

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Saville agreed.

Solicitors: Fussell Wright & Co, Bristol; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Exemplary but no compensatory damages

Cumber v Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Waite and Sir Tasker Watkins

[Judgment January 23]

In an action for damages for false imprisonment the jury's decision to award exemplary damages of £50 but no compensatory damages to a girl aged 15 wrongly detained in police custody for four and a half hours was perverse and irrational. However, it would not be appropriate for a retrial of the matter to be ordered.

Exercising its powers under *Order 59, rule 11 of the Rules of the* Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal should determine the *amount of damages to be awarded,* namely £350.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Tara Cumber, from the verdict of a jury at Portsmouth Crown Court and the judgment of Judge Wroath consequent on that verdict that she be awarded no compensatory damages against the defendant, the Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary, Mr John Hoddinot.

Mr Charles Tayler for the plaintiff; Mr Simon Russen for the chief constable.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the successful plaintiff claimed that the jury in awarding her £50 exemplary damages but no compensatory damages, had made a perverse award.

At 7.30am on June 26, 1989, the plaintiff, then nearly 16 and of good character was arrested by a police constable on suspicion of attempted theft. At the time she was half-dressed and had had no breakfast. She was taken to the police station and detained in a cell from 8.28am until her release *without being charged at 12.55pm.*

At the trial, Judge Wroath had properly directed the jury. He told them that the plaintiff had been unlawfully detained, that unlawfulness arising primarily under section 37(1)(a)(ii) and (2) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

The judge went on to explain the purpose of awarding compensatory and exemplary damages and the differences between them, indicating that exemplary damages could be awarded to mark their disapproval of police conduct. He told them that if they decided to award exemplary as well as compensatory damages then they ought to add the two amounts together so as to come up with a global figure.

The plaintiff made no complaint of the judge's summing up. But, Mr Taylor contended, having awarded her £50 exemplary damages they could only reasonably have coupled it with a significant award of compensatory damages.

Mr Russen said that there was no reason why the jury should not make an award of exemplary damages to express their disapproval of police conduct while concluding that the plaintiff had suffered no loss or damage for which she deserved compensating.

Mr Russen's submissions were unacceptable. It had to be rare, if not unique, for an award of exemplary damages not to be coupled with one for compensatory damages. *His Lordship said that* he would not speculate as to whether circumstances could exist for such an award properly to be made. But this was not such a case.

The plaintiff had suffered damage and harm. There had been an infringement of her rights as a citizen not to be detained without just cause. She had been under 16 at the time and had been taken to the police station in T-shirt, shorts and slippers. She hated confined spaces and had been frightened, tearful and distressed. For the jury not to have awarded her compen*satory damages was perverse and* irrational.

What course should now be adopted? *Mr Taylor* urged the court to order a retrial and not to substitute its own award, the plaintiff being entitled to have the value of her claim assessed by a jury.

But the case was of the type where the Court of Appeal, to avoid delay and expense, should exercise its powers under Order 59, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and make its own award. That should be a global sum. The correct amount was £350.

Lord Justice Waite gave a concurring judgment and Sir Tasker Watkins agreed.

Solicitors: *Gray Purdue* & Co, Fareham; Mr P. C. B. Robertson, Winchester.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Move to stay inquiry fails

Regina v Chance, Ex parte Smith and Others

Before Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Kay

[Judgment December 21]

Where the public interest required that inquiries had to be made by a professional tribunal with a view to disciplinary proceedings being instituted, it was *not* in the public interest that those inquiries be stayed until the outcome of civil actions, involving essentially the same subject matter, which might not be completed until long after the event.

The test set out by the Court of Appeal in *R v Panel on Take-overs and Mergers, Ex parte Al Fayed* (*The Times* April 15, 1992; [1992] BCC 524, 531E) applied. *R v Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ex parte Brindle* (*The Times* January 12, 1994) was decided on its own facts and could be distinguished.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in refusing an application by Coopers & Lybrand, a firm of chartered accountants, and individual partners thereof, for judicial review of the refusal by Mr Michael S. Chance, the executive counsel of the Institute of Chartered Accountants appointed under its joint disciplinary scheme, to stay his investigation pending the disposal of civil actions against the firm arising out of the same matters.

Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Mr Andrew Simmonds for the accountants; Mr Michael Beloff, QC *and Mr Tim Kerr for the* institute.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the proceedings arose as a result of the death of Robert Maxwell and the discovery of alleged large scale misappropriation of assets belonging to the pension funds of various public companies with which he was concerned. Coopers & Lybrand were the auditors both of the pension funds and of other Maxwell companies that were the trustees and managers of the relevant assets of those funds.

Their stewardship had come under scrutiny in three areas:

First, they played an important *role in various inquiries:*

1 An inquiry by inspectors appointed by the Department of *Trade and Industry under sections* 432(2) and 442 of the Companies Act 1985.

2 An investigation by *the Serious* Fraud Office into possible criminal conduct.

3 Inquiries by the social security *committee of the House of* Commons.

4 An investigation into their audit *procedures and controls by the* audit registration committee and joint monitoring unit of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

They had cooperated with those investigations.

Second, they were or expected to be defendants in various civil claims for damages by:

1 The liquidators of *Bishopsgate* Investment Management Ltd for £305 million.

2 The trustees of the Mirror Group Pension Fund for £50 million and $47 million.

3 *The liquidators of First Tokyo* Index Trust Ltd, suing Morgan Stanley who joined some third parties *including Coopers &* Lybrand, and who would bring an additional £56 million action *against* them.

4 Possibly the administrators of some Maxwell companies on the private *side as opposed to the* public companies.

The stay was sought pending the *trial of those actions. Where there* was overlap between the various investigations and actions each fed on *the other so that information* obtained in one was likely to be used in others.

Third were the disciplinary proceedings now being sought to be stayed.

His Lordship described the EC and UK statutory background of and the steps taken in the investigation under challenge and said that solicitors for Coopers & Lybrand relying on *Brindle* had formally requested a stay of the institute's inquiry.

On the test enunciated in *Fayed* it was common ground that the court was required to conduct a balancing exercise of weighing the public interest in the prompt and efficient operation of the disciplinary scheme of the institute against the risk of serious prejudice to the fairness of the trial of other proceedings, which might result in an injustice.

Doing that, the court would take *into account all the evidence before* it, including that which related to matters subsequent to the decision *under challenge.*

The court concluded that *Brindle* was decided on its own facts *and was clearly distinguishable.*

Their Lordships examined the background of the disciplinary proceedings *and concluded that* there was a strong public interest in the continuance of the inquiry not being delayed by the court. *There was no reason to think that* the inquiry and any disciplinary measures would not be conducted *fairly.*

It was not suggested that civil proceedings tried by a judge alone could be prejudiced by the earlier outcome of any disciplinary proceedings. The case was put on *the basis that having to defend* parallel proceedings, disciplinary and civil, brought a risk of serious *prejudice that might lead to* injustice.

The risk of inconsistent decisions *was raised. That could be* avoided, it was said, where there was only one determinative fact finding exercise.

The court said that disciplinary proceedings were necessary both *to ensure that regulatory questions* arousing public concern were addressed within a reasonable time *scale and that they were addressed* by a body with power to deal with them by way of fine and *disqualification.*

Both the Community and Parliament had seen the need for such *proceedings and they would not be* properly efficacious if they had to await the resolution, by compromise or *otherwise, of civil* proceedings, which might happen long after the event. Given the *nature of the disciplinary scheme,* there was no reason to assume they would arrive at an erroneous conclusion.

The strain of defending on two fronts was reduced not only by the support and resources of the employers but also by fact that any overlap would mean a proper preparation for defence on one front would also serve as a defence on the other.

If there were any inconsistencies in what was said in the two proceedings then they would have to be explained. If they were not then there was no injustice in taking the inconsistency into account

Their Lordships disagreed with the submission that there was no urgency in continuing the inquiry under challenge. The plunder of the MGN *pension funds posed* questions of real public concern as to the protection afforded by *professional auditors. That question* should be addressed promptly and not have to await the final *resolution of civil proceedings.*

Nor were their Lordships impressed with the suggestion that *the investigation of the firm's audit* procedures was a substiture for a disciplinary hearing which was concerned with individual con*duct, not with systems.*

Nor should the inquiry await the publication of the DTI inspectors' report. Many *considerations could* delay such publication, as a quick mental check on unpublished reports relating to financial scandals dating from the 1980s would confirm.

Last was the suggestion that the continuation of the inquiry might prejudice any criminal trials. The parties and the trial court would be alive to any potential risk of prejudice. The responsibility for the preservation of the integrity of those trials rested with the criminal court which had ample power to obtain an order restraining publication until after the conclusion of the criminal trials.

Therefore their Lordships saw no reason for granting any stay of the disciplinary proceedings and the application was dismissed.

The court distinguished the present case from *Brindle* for the *following reasons:*

1 In *Brindle* the open ended nature and scale of the disciplinary proceedings was such that to pursue them contemporaneously with the civil proceedings would prejudice the defence of those civil proceedings. Here the disciplinary proceedings were specific and did not impose such daunting unprecedented burdens and would not jeopardise the proper defence of the civil proceedings.

2 There was no special consideration of seriousness or urgency in the disciplinary proceedings in *Brindle*. Here serious allegations were made and the disciplinary proceedings could be completed before the civil proceedings.

3 In *Brindle* the scale of the civil proceedings was such that even if only partly successful the outcome might destroy the appellants' business. Here there was no evidence that the litigation posed such a threat.

4 In *Brindle* the disciplinary proceedings were under the old, and arguably unfair, scheme. No such criticisms were made of the new scheme.

5 In *Brindle* the court attached importance to the audit registration committee joint monitoring *unit clearance. This court did not.*

6 In *Brindle* it was felt that the mere commencement of the disci*plinary proceedings met the public* concern. This court did not feel that.

Solicitors: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert; Bates Wells & Braithwaite.

Legal expenses are taxable supplies for VAT

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Deutsche Ruck UK Reinsurance Company Ltd

Before Mr Justice Auld

[Judgment January 11]

Legal expenses incurred by a company in determining its liability to meet claims under reinsurance contracts were used wholly or exclusively in making taxable supplies because their purpose was to *determine the very essence of the* performance of the contracts.

Mr Justice Auld so held in a *reserved judgment in the Queen's* Bench Division, dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of *Customs and Excise against the* decision of a value-added tax tribunal on August 12, 1993 to *allow the appeal of Deutsche Ruck* UK Reinsurance Company Ltd against a VAT assessment.

Mr Paul Lasok, QC, for the commissioners; Mr Joseph Smouha for the taxpayer.

MR JUSTICE AULD said that the taxpayer had incurred expenses for legal services supplied to it in connection with disputes arising from reinsurance contracts with non-European Community companies to which it was a party.

The issue was whether those legal services were wholly attributable to its taxable, although zero-rated supply of *reinsurance under those contracts* so that the input tax on them was wholly deductible from its output *tax on the reinsurance supplies, or* whether it was only partly deductible as part of general overhead expenses.

The tribunal had concluded that the legal services on which the *expenses had been incurred had* been used "wholly" or "exclusively" in making taxable supplies *because their purpose had been to* determine the very essence of the performance of the contract, the amount which the taxpayer had promised to pay under the contract.

The commissioners submitted that the taxpayer's taxable supply in the reinsurance contracts con*sisted only in its act of entering into* the contract and, therefore, that legal expenses subsequently in*curred in a dispute about the* validity of the contract or the value of the claim were not for services *used, wholly or otherwise, in* making the taxable supply.

The taxpayer maintained that its making of a taxable supply under a reinsurance contract included everything done by it under the contract, including disputing its validity and testing the value of the claim.

The commissioners submitted that there was not the required causal connection between the taxpayer's supply of reinsurance services and its expenditure of money on legal services, the latter being a consequence of the former rather than having been used in making it.

In his Lordship's judgment, what constituted the supply of insurance, *or reinsurance,* services, certainly in this context, was that it was not just the entering into *of a contract of (re)insurance and* maintenance of the cover.

The reality of the transaction *was that a (re)insured paid a* premium to the (re)insurer for undertaking to make payments to *him in certain events* and for honouring that undertaking, that was, making the payments, if and *when the insurable event occurred.*

The (re)insured's contingent obligation might last for a very long time, and the claim or payment might be made well after the end of the contract period in which the insurable event had occurred. The supply consisted both in entering into the contrac*tual obligation and in fulfilling it.*

The question was, therefore, whether legal expenses incurred by a (re)*insurer in challenging,* partially or in its entirety, a claim by its (re)insured, or in litigation *with brokers about the undertak*ing of the (re)insurance, were referable to inputs "used ... in *making taxable supplies*": *see* regulation 30(1)(b) of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations (*SI 1985 No 886*), *as amended by* the Value Added Tax (General) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1992 No 645).

In his Lordship's judgment, the answer was a matter of commonsense construction of regulation 30 and its application to the circumstances having regard, in particular, to the broad meaning to be given to the supply of (re)insurance services for the purposes of the VAT legislation.

An incident of any contract of (re)insurance was a determination of whether and, if so, how much of, any claim under it should be paid. Legal or other services obtained by the (re)insurer in determining its liability, if any, to meet claims, or as to other commercial consequences of having undertaken the (re)insurance, were causally connected with *the making of the* payment if and when it was made.

Accordingly, the taxpayer's legal expenses had been wholly or exclusively incurred in making taxable supplies and the appeal would be *dismissed.*

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Mainprice & Co, Victoria.

Scots Law Report January 28 1995 Court of Session

Sewage overload invalid reason for refusing consent

Tayside Regional Council v Secretary of State for Scotland

Before Lord Cullen

[Judgment December 19]

Where a private party proposed to connect a drain or private sewer to a public sewer, the fact that the public sewer was already overloaded was *not* necessarily a valid ground upon which the sewerage authority could refuse permission for the connection.

Lord Cullen, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, refusing a petition for judicial review brought by Tayside Regional Council against a decision of the *Secretary of State* for Scotland to allow an appeal by A. & J. Stephen (Builders) Ltd under section 12(5) of the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968 against the refusal by the council of an application by the company under section 12(3) to connect the drains serving a proposed housing development to a public sewer at Glenfarg.

Section 1 of the 1968 Act provides:

"(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, it shall be the duty of every local authority to provide such public sewers as may be necessary for effectually draining their area *of domestic sewage [and] surface* water...

"(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing subsection, every local authority shall take their public sewers to such point or points as will enable the owners of premises which are to be served by the sewers to connect their drains or private sewers therewith at a reasonable cost.

"(3) The duties imposed by the foregoing *subsection* shall not require a local authority to do *anything* which is not practicable at a reasonable cost.

"(4) If anything arises under this section as to whether anything is or is not practicable at a reasonable cost or as to the point or points to which public sewers must be taken to enable drains or private sewers to be connected therewith at a reasonable cost, the secretary of state, if requested to do so by any person aggrieved, shall ... determine that question..."

Section 12 provides:

"(1) Subject to the provisions of this section ... the owner of any premises within the area of a local authority shall be entitled to connect his drains or private sewers with the sewers ... of that authority...

"(3) The owner of any premises who proposes to connect his drains *or sewers with the sewers or works* of a local authority ... shall give to the authority notice of his pro*posals, and* ... *the authority may* refuse permission for the connection ... or grant permission ... subject to such conditions as they think fit..."

Mr James Drummond Young, QC and Mr Ian Armstrong for the petitioners; Mr Robert McCreadie for the secretary of state; Mr David Burns, QC for A. & J. Stephen (Builders) Ltd.

LORD CULLEN said that the petitioners had refused permission for the connection on the ground that the public sewer was already overloaded.

When that refusal had been appealed to him under section 12(5), the secretary of state had held that the lack of capacity was not a valid ground for the refusal of permission.

In seeking judicial review of the secretary of state's decision, the petitioners argued that a lack of capacity must always be a valid reason for refusal of permission under section 12. They contended that section 12 was distinct from section 1, which was concerned with the adequacy of the public *sewers. Any question of the failure* of the authority to comply with its duties under that section was a *separate matter from an appeal* under section 12.

The petitioners' duties under section 1 had not been the subject of the appeal. An appeal under section 12(5) was inept for the purpose of dealing with a question of failure to comply with the duties under section 1. In deciding that lack of capacity was not a valid ground, the council submitted, the secretary of state proceeded upon a material error of law.

Taking section 12 by itself, his *Lordship was not satisfied that* its terms were such as to indicate that the incapacity of the authority's *sewer would not be a valid ground* of refusal. Turning to section 1, the petititoners' argument was that *any complaint that their reason for* refusing permission implied a failure on their part to carry out their duty under section 1 could not be considered in a section 12 appeal but only in other procedure related to section 1.

In his Lordship's view, that *approach did not adequately* address the point that they were not entitled to advance a reason for *refusal which would have the effect* of frustrating the policy of the Act: see *Padfield v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* ([1968] AC 977).

It was no answer to say that a different procedure would provide a remedy for any failure on their part. Accordingly, the secretary of state had been entitled to take the view that the reason given by the petitioners was not a valid ground. Although their duties under section 1 had not themselves been the subject of the appeal, he was entitled to take the view that the reason given by them implied a failure to comply with those duties and that that was relevant to a proper consideration of the appeal.

Law agents: Tods Murray, WS; Solicitor to the Secretary of State: Paull & Williamsons.

Reasonable excuse is not required

Forbes v Johnstone

Before the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Allanbridge, Lord Murray, Lord Mayfield and Lord Sutherland

[Judgment December 7]

A defender who had failed to enter an action and against whom a decree *had consequntly passed* might have the decree recalled even though he had no reasonable *explanation for his failure to* appear.

The Inner House of the Court of Session, sitting as a court of five judges, so held, allowing an appeal by Mrs Wilma Johnstone against the refusal by the sheriff of a reponing note lodged by her in an action brought by Mr Robert Lindsay Forbes.

Mr Patrick Hodge for the defender and appellant; no appearance for the pursuer and respondent.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that it had been conceded by the pursuer that the defender had set forth a statable defence.

Nevertheless, the sheriff had thought that her explanation for her failure to enter appearance, which was that she had failed to appreciate the significance of the writ, was scarcely intelligibe.

However, the decisions in Mullen v Harmac Ltd (1994 SLT 926) and *McDonough v Focus DIY Ltd* (1994 SLT 596), that a decree in absence could only be recalled if the defender demonstrated both *that there was a reasonable excuse* for his failure to enter the process timeously, and second, the existence of a statable defence, were wrong.

Rule 28 of the Sheriff Court Ordinary Cause Rules, as amended by (SI 1990 No 2105) required that, before deciding whether or not to recall the decree, the sheriff had to consider the proposed defence in the reponing note and the defender's explanation for his failure to appear.

It was unlikely that *the sheriff* would recall the decree unless he was satisifed that the defence was statable.

As for the explanation, it was not *a requirement of the rules that it* provided a reasonable excuse for the non-appearance. Defenders might fail to appear timeously for various reasons, some of which might be inexcusable.

But it might result in an injustice if a defender who had a perfectly sound defence *were to be denied* the opportunity of entering the process simply because the *explanation for his non-appearance* was not reasonable.

As the matter was at the sheriff's discretion he was entitled to take account of all the circumstances and balance one consideration against another in deciding whether to recall the decree.

Law agents: Shepherd & Wedderburn, WS, for Hunter & Murray, Stranraer.

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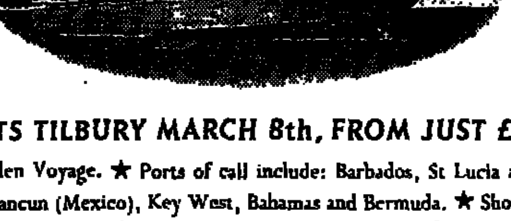

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Justice must find a conscience

The Clegg case exposes a cruel dilemma, says **Bruce Anderson**

The legal process involves the application of principles to specific cases. The aim is to use law to arrive at justice, but in a fallen world, such an outcome cannot always be guaranteed. If there were no fiendishly complicated cases in which the principles of law and the interests of justice seemed contradictory, there would be no rationale for the law's panoply, or the law's expense. Equally, if in each instance when the principles appeared to be irreconcilable with the circumstances, our response was to abandon the principles, law would dissolve into anarchy.

There have been few more difficult, more irreconcilable, more heart-rending cases than that of Private Clegg. On the one hand, a murder was committed. The girl who was slain had behaved irresponsibly. She may have participated in a crime, and she certainly condoned one. She would have been lucky to escape with a good telling-off, but she did not deserve to die.

There was no justification for firing a lethal weapon at that fleeing car, and on any conscientious reading of the law, there was only one verdict which the judge could deliver and the Court of Appeal then uphold: that of murder.

Murder was done, but Private Clegg was no murderer. To understand the circumstances in which that girl died, one has to consider the context in which soldiers in Ulster operate. Private Clegg went out to help the RUC catch joyriders. A fracas ensued: the sort of fracas which in Ulster often provides cover for the bomber and the sniper. A car was driven straight at the soldiers, who were keyed up for a military emergency; they gave a military response.

For about 25 years, the IRA tried to make war on the British Army in Ulster. But the army always refused to acknowledge that there was a war; to do so would have been to grant their opponents a status and a dignity to which they were not entitled, plus a propaganda success that would have been damaging. But the necessary fiction that we were engaged purely in policing duties entailed awkward consequences. It meant that however onerous the duties that soldiers had to perform, they only enjoyed the same rights as civilans.

Over the past 25 years, a number of highly-educated, middle-aged men and women, with plenty of time for deliberation and forethought, have made crass errors of judgment on Ulster policy. Their sole punishment was to be sent to the House of Lords. Some very young men, not nearly as well-educated, with no time to think, have also made errors: split-second errors of judgment when they had reason to believe that they and their comrades' lives were in peril. Their reward has been a a prison cell.

And yet there is no easy answer to all this. We could give soldiers in Ulster additional rights, freeing them, in effect, from normal legal constraints. But the outcome would be disastrous. The IRA would claim a victory, with some justice: they would have succeeded in dragging our standards down towards their code of the gutter. Moreover — even more damaging — there would be serious and cumulative effects on the Army's morale.

For at least two centuries, the British Government has imposed strong legal restraints on the exercise of British power. Servants of the Crown have known that if they used force unjustifiably, they could be called to account in front of tribunals, thousands of miles from the chaotic conditions which had provoked their excesses. What had seemed reasonable in a distant emergency could sound very different back in London when described with a clever lawyer's calculated incomprehension.

But this all has its uses. The British Army not only fought in Ulster to uphold the rule of law. Throughout all the difficulties, it abided by the rule of law. That it had to operate under legal restraints helped it to do so.

There is no possibility of writing a rule book to guide soldiers and policemen through the security morass in Northern Ireland. Above all, there is no way of relieving them from the responsibility of making snap decisions with hideous consequences. Every officer knows that if he errs on one side, some of his men may be killed, while if he errs on the other side, he and they may be facing a murder charge.

> The reward for split-second errors of judgment is a cell

It is fortunate for all of us that over 25 years, the Army has got it right far more often than we have any right to expect. But we now have to deal with Private Clegg. He has been judged guilty of murder: a terrible, shameful offence. But the terror and the shame derive, not only from the court's judgment, but from the certainty of denounciation by the moral voice of the whole community. In Private Clegg's case, this has not happened. On the contrary, the public has insisted on his acquittal. Far from imposing the law's verdict on his conscience, the public regards him as a prisoner of conscience.

In such circumstancs, at least in moral terms, his conviction has already been quashed. The problem for the Government is how to find a means of giving effect to this. It is reasonable for politicians to hang back, for they are the legislators, not the judges, and the integrity of the law requires a separation of the two functions. But in this hard case, that may have to be blurred.

In Ulster soldiers have had to act as policemen, a role for which neither Private Clegg nor the Parachute Regiment were suited. A mess has ensued, and to clear it up, the politicians will also have to play an unsuitable role: as judges. It is an unsatisfactory outcome, but this is hardly the first time that there has been such an outcome in Northern Ireland.

Claims that Jimmy Porter's creator was homosexual do not diminish his talent, says **Benedict Nightingale**

Outing the real John Osborne

Whether or not John Osborne is actually turning in his grave, be sure he is not lying back and peacefully smoking a Turkish cigarette. This week has been a troubled one for his reputation. On Tuesday he was posthumously "outed", an event that added a certain frisson to the Royal Shakespeare Company's announcement two days later that it was reviving the one play in which Osborne dealt directly with homosexuality, *A Patriot for Me*. What did it all mean, and how much did it matter?

The idea of Osborne having been what he called a "poove" or "nancy boy" seems preposterous. His work is full of homophobic rhetoric, some of it highly offensive even by his towering standards. In his last play, *Dejavu*, he took the original Angry Young Man, Jimmy Porter, out of the gunroom and aimed him at the world's gays. But this week it has been suggested that Osborne had homosexual inclinations himself.

That is the claim of Anthony Creighton, who shared a flat with Osborne in the early 1950s and collaborated with him on the play *Epitaph for George Dillon*. "It was a love affair," he told the *Evening Standard's* Nicholas de Jongh, justifying his kiss-and-tell on the grounds that the dramatist was a treacherous hypocrite. Not only was Creighton contemptuously outed in Osborne's autobiography: he might have inspired the offstage character Webster in *Look Back in Anger*, a member of "the Michelangelo brigade" who "is like a man with a strawberry mark which he keeps thrusting in your face because he can't believe it doesn't interest you".

The problem is that we cannot revive Osborne and ask him impertinently pertinent questions about what might have been a homosexual phase, might have been something deeper, and (his widow's view) might have been nothing at all. The danger therefore is that he will be posthumously put on the psychiatrist's couch and presumptuously analysed. Certainly, we must expect his plays to be ransacked for giveaway hints. Be ready for tracts titled "The semiotics of sexual displacement in *Luther*" and "*The Entertainer*: a study of psychopathological torment".

Had Osborne translated homosexuality into straight terms, he would admittedly have been following some eminent examples. With the law and the theatrical censor anathematising homosexuality, the Maughams, Cowards and Rattigans had to dive for cover professionally as well as personally. Rattigan began to write *The Deep Blue Sea* after a former lover committed suicide, but eventually transformed him into a judge's wife in despair at her failing affair with a young pilot. Coward's *Private Lives*, writes a recent biographer, "uses a heterosexual relationship to dramatise a camp sensibility".

Even *The Importance of Being Earnest* has been seen as a camouflaged account of Wilde's double life. W.H. Auden wrote that he could not hear Algy's talk of Bunburying without thinking of Alfred Taylor's male brothel or see the ending without "the country house in never-never Hertfordshire turning into the Old Bailey and the features of Lady Bracknell into those of Mr Justice Wills".

But Auden made the right point when he added that *The Importance* was a masterpiece which gave Wilde "the impersonal fame of the artist". How relevant is any writer's life to the appreciation of his work? What really matters is that *The Deep Blue Sea* is a good play that works as it was penned. So are Tennessee Williams's *Streetcar Named Desire* and Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, even though each has been pawed by critics suspicious that the relationships in them are less straight than they seem.

That has not, however, deterred the directors any more than the prying academics. A recent London revival of *Design for Living* stripped off the leading men and made it very evident they were more powerfully attached to each other than to the woman in their lives. The director was, I suppose, only decoding what Coward had left scrambled — but was that more justifiable than Peter Sellars's handling of Antonio and Bassanio in the *Merchant of Venice* he brought to the Barbican last year? They practically had sex in the Duke's court, understandably miffing Portia.

Thank goodness we don't know anything about Shakespeare's relationship with Mr W.H., or heaven knows what subtextual exotica directors might start dragging to the surface. As it is, we may well find the friendship of Jimmy and Cliff handled rather differently when *Look Back in Anger* is next revived, for Creighton claims to have been sleeping with Osborne when it was written.

But neither it, nor *Inadmissible Evidence*, nor any of his better plays are altered a whit by such revelations. Nor, for that matter, is *A Patriot for Me*, though I don't doubt we will hear a lot of Osborne's personal proclivities when the RSC stages its drag ball. In fact its protagonist, a Hapsburg officer blackmailed and destroyed because of his homosexuality, is in a long line of Osborne characters, Porter and Luther among them, at odds with the pretensions and demands of their eras.

But I don't think I am contradicting myself if I say that, though we don't need to know anything about Osborne to enjoy the play, the play does shed light on Osborne. Certainly, it does not deserve its reputation for homophobia. On the contrary, Osborne thought and felt his way into the mind of a man at war with his sexuality with a sensitivity and care seldom associated with him. Does this prove him a closet homosexual? It is more important that it shows him to be a gentler man and a subtler dramatist than we usually suppose.

Rimbaud without a cause

If football hooliganism is really the fault of progressive teachers, then Eric Cantona is a philosopher

Simon Jenkins

Cantona: a product of France's centralised education system, model for Right-thinking British reformers

So now we have it in a nutshell. Mr Eric Cantona's karate kick to the throat of Mr Matthew Simmons at Selhurst Park on Wednesday symbolised the metaphysical dichotomy of the Anglo-Saxon and French pedagogic traditions. The 20-year-old Mr Simmons received his early education in the "progressive" Seventies. Loyal to the memory of Shirley Williams, he internalised his emotions, restrained his animal violence and blurted out the anal retentive, "You f—ing French git." It was, his friend said, "what you pay your £20 for".

Mr Cantona's response was, of course, existential. Showing the passionate reflex so admired by English women in Latin men, he aimed a boot at Mr Simmons's jugular. His neglect of the possible £10 million cost to his club and sponsors was in the tradition of Jean-Paul Sartre. Mr Cantona is a child of French scholastic dirigisme, so different from the non-violent empiricism of Mr Simmons. He is reputedly a philosopher, socialist and poet. He punches and stamps on his own side as well as his opponents. As his precursor, Rimbaud, put it, "*O saisons! O châteaux! / Quelle âme est sans défauts?*"

No tosh is so wondrous as the tosh that surrounds the inanities of football. Every paper yesterday rushed to explain the Great Incident. *The Guardian* put it down to Albert Camus. Mr Cantona, said *The Daily Telegraph*, was a tragic victim of faulty analysis. Others saw further evidence of a collapse in standards among the young. Others still blamed — yes! — progressive teachers. In this, France was pitted against England. The view of the man on the South London street was that England won. We would rather our yobs go about bellowing four-letter words than lashing out in karate-style kicks. In a choice between anal-retentive liberal and existential authoritarian, we incline to the retentives.

Does the Government agree? As Mr Cantona was performing his great leap for existentialism, the Chief Inspector of Schools was delivering a no less savage kick at progressive teaching methods. Chris Woodhead warned an audience at the Royal Society of Arts that "child-centred" education was not yet defeated. The poison of the Sixties and Seventies had not been eradicated. With restraint he forebore even greater headlines by not citing Simmons and Cantona by name.

Mr Woodhead attacked the familiar bugbears: "discovery learning", interactive instruction, problem-solving, teachers as facilitators, not hierarchs. Teachers persisted in the sacrilegious belief that "education must be relevant to the immediate needs and interests of children." Such a belief, said Mr Woodhead, is a "real impediment to the development of a better educational system". Facts were more important than personal skills.

I find it near incredible that such reactionary ideas can still be put forward, and not just as personal opinion but as central government diktat. They are meant to support a National Curriculum that was introduced as an act of social engineering, to change the attitudes and aspirations of the young and their behaviour in the community. It is ironic that in the debate on the 1988 Act, hooliganism was constantly mentioned as a charge on the education system. Lady Thatcher and Kenneth Baker rejected the programme of the Right, for vouchers and free parental choice in curriculum.

Mr Baker was an ardent enthusiast for the French centralist tradition — against which I assume Mr Cantona is the most spectacular rebel. He would refer admiringly to the French minister who could tell what was being taught at every minute in each school in France. He wanted up to 90 per cent of the school day dictated nationally. If a ruler fell from any desk in the land, Mr Baker would metaphorically stoop to pick it up. To this end he introduced his 1988 Great Education Reform Act, a Rolls Royce of bureaucracy. Its central control panel enabled the secretary of state in theory to drive the machine wherever he chose: "key stages one, two and three", standard assessment tests, syllabus papers by the cartload and national league tables. Only by centralism, said the government, would the evils of a sick society be cured.

Crystal Palace and Mr Woodhead appear at least to agree that this Rolls-Royce is not working to order. The latest test results for ages seven and 14 published this week have been most disappointing. Standards that can be measured nationally appear not to have risen. Seven years of reaction have not delivered the goods. Mr Woodhead predictably blames not the system but the teachers. They have resisted his orders. They have listened to the "dogma and rhetoric" of others but not to his. As for the cure, it lies "far beyond the legislative power of even the most interventionist government". (I thought nothing lay beyond that distant horizon.)

I have no feel for these sociological relationships: between curriculum and economic performance, between one "system" of teaching and another, between schooling and social behaviour. There is so little evidence on which to base them. We can drill young people full of the three Rs, of Wordsworth and the square of the hypotenuse. We can hope that some of the stuff actually sticks beyond the end of term. We can ignore skills and interests that come naturally to them and which they might find useful later on, skills in communication, money, law, citizenship and parenthood. We hope they will pick these up somewhere else.

Yet we appear to believe, hope against hope, that a grammar curriculum little changed since the 1900s will make them honour their parents and partners, respect authority and behave better at football matches. Now we find an official, not a minister, declaring that a sense of discovery and inquiry in the classroom is anathema and treating "child-centred" and "active learning" as taboo phrases.

If violence has any relationship with the classroom, it must be as a reaction against this authoritarian tradition. Schools were never more joyless places than under late-Victorian corporal punishment and payment-by-results. Ever since Mr Baker, this period has cast a spell over the education department. Mr Woodhead's apparent belief that children respond best under conditions of submissive obedience is as bizarre today as it ever was. Even in Japan schooling is nowadays based on child-centred group learning. It would be helpful if more educators read Socrates rather than Tory manifestos.

It is easy to perceive a wrong in the community, blame education and demand that the clock be put back to some Golden Age. There was no golden age, not even for football. Sports grounds have always been places of abuse, violence and eccentric and extravagant behaviour. The only conclusion I can draw from this week's events is that education has given us a better class of excuse. Mr Cantona — manifestly a common hooligan — is to the sporting press a genius, a philosopher, a conundrum, even a Renaissance man. His equally appalling victim Mr Simmons is a fine sportsman and refreshingly "non-violent". The incident is rerun hourly on television, like a balletic pas de deux, a minuet of the misunderstood. When Sartre and Camus have left the stage, I assume David Attenborough and Stephen Hawking will be asked for their analysis. Then — Heaven forbid — a regiment of government inspectors will doubtless be called upon to "act".

THE TIMES DIARY

Dixie delivers

ERIC CANTONA's heady reaction to the taunts of a spectator is not entirely unprecedented in the annals of Association Football history. Veteran students of the nation's favourite game recall an incident 58 years ago in which Dixie Dean, Everton's record-breaking goal scorer, launched into a barracking fan and scored a direct hit on the chin.

On that occasion, the police were foursquare behind the England player, whose record of 60 goals in one season still stands. The story is recounted in an unfinished biography of the footballing giant by the late Nick Walsh.

Dean: no penalty

Dean, nicknamed "Dixie" because his dusky complexion suggested he was from the Deep South rather than Merseyside, was walking from the field at the end of an FA Cup tie, which his team had lost 4-3, in 1937. He had scored two goals and from the crowd, a Tottenham fan yelled: "We will get you, you black bastard."

The superstar stopped as he was approaching the tunnel, writes Walsh, and had a word with an approaching policeman: "He said: 'It's all right officer, I will look after this.' He thereupon punched the man, knocking him flying into the crowd.

"Cheers followed from some onlookers and the policeman rushed towards Dean — only to shake him by the hand and comment enthusiastically: 'That was a beauty but I never saw it.' "

Dean was neither charged nor suspended.

● *Prince Michael of Kent's private secretary, John Kennedy, who was released on bail pending police inquiries into a blackmail attempt, was born John Gvozdenovic. When in the Young Conservatives, he was called either "Goddamn-son-of-a-bitch" or, more simply, "Zob".*

Show gun

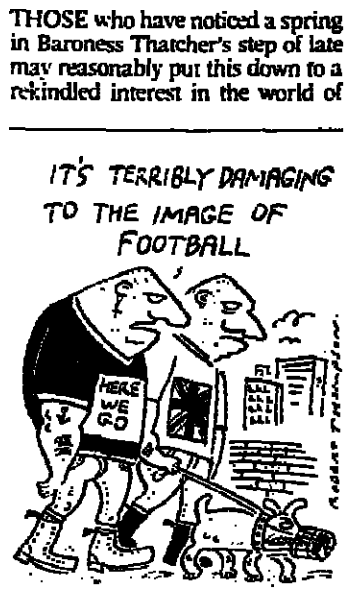
SHOULD Saddam Hussein venture near the Royal Armouries national collection of artillery being amassed at Fort Nelson near Portsmouth, he will surely recognise some of the heavier equipment. Parts of the Iraqi supergun confiscated by Customs & Excise five years ago will go on show at the 19th-century fort in April.

"We've got three bits of the gun and they amount to a considerable physical presence," says curator Nicholas Hall. "One of them is 10m long and weighs 30 tonnes. The other two bits are shorter and weigh 10 tonnes each. They are enormous — but would have been only a tiny proportion ofSaddam's supergun."

Brush with art

THOSE who have noticed a spring in Baroness Thatcher's step of late may reasonably put this down to a rekindled interest in the world of art. During her Christmas break in Barcelona, the Lady whiled away her time by visiting three art galleries, one sculptor's studio and countless Gaudi buildings.

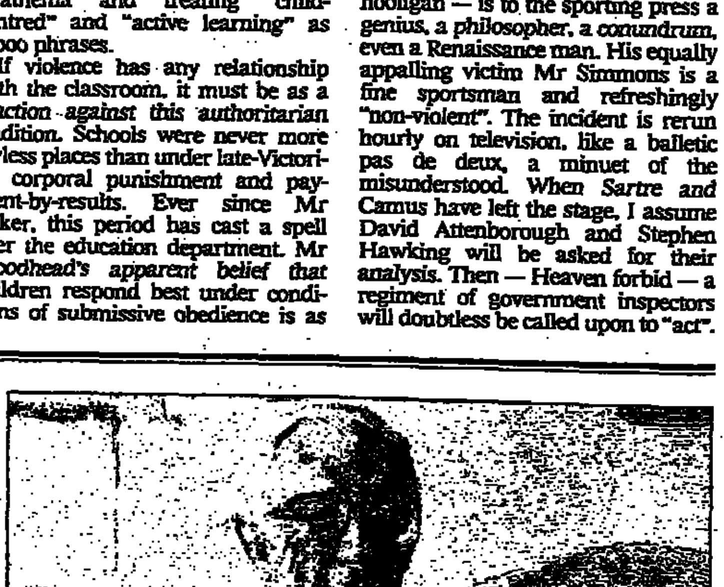
This is no new-found interest, say her friends. It is simply that she has more time these days to enjoy the finer things in life. "She has always been interested in art," says one. "People have rather tended to assume she was a barbarian. She is not a collector, but in fact she is very knowledgeable. When in Venice, she spent a long time in the Modigliani exhibition." This passion for paintings clearly explains her choice of hotel in Barcelona: Hotel Arts.


IT'S TERRIBLY DAMAGING TO THE IMAGE OF FOOTBALL
HERE WE GO

● *The feast day of St Blaise, the 4th-century martyr who saved a boy's life by extricating a fish bone from his throat, falls on Friday. Makers of a well-known brand of liquid antiseptic have therefore declared next week National Gargling Week.*

Gagging order

THE FORMER foreign secretary, Lord Carrington, comes over rather stern in a portrait to be hung in the National Portrait Gallery this summer. He is pictured cross-legged and ill-at-ease on a sofa at Christie's, the auction house where he was chairman.



Carrington: portrait of the former statesman struck dumb

The diffident demeanour stems not from an aristocratic upbringing, nor from the fact that Christie's staff referred to him as "Blake" Carrington after a character in the American soap opera *Dynasty*. It was simply that the artist Tai-Shan Shierenberg was very fierce during the three separate sittings of three hours. "He's a very talented artist, and he'll go a long way," says Carrington. "But it was very strange because he doesn't like one to talk at all. So, at the end of three hours, one's face is likely to look a little set."

● *Saatchi defectors waiting to see if they can use the Saatchi name for their new company are calling themselves "Dress Rehearsal" for the time being.*

P·H·S

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

With a welcome challenge to the education establishment

This week, the new Chief Inspector of Schools, Christopher Woodhead, said what *had previously* been unsayable within official educational circles. By making it clear that progressive teaching orthodoxy was at the heart of falling standards, he has brought some much-needed realism to the debate on educational reform and thus a degree of hope to parents who have despaired of the state school system.

Mr Woodhead also provided a useful corrective to the notion that government intervention could, by itself, cure the problems of under-achievement. He said that unless teachers — and those who train them — are prepared to drop their doctrinaire commitment to a wrongheaded educational philosophy, no amount of prescriptive legislation will improve children's performance. He pointed to the curious nature of a profession which sees itself as promoting freedom of thought while at the same time refusing to entertain debate on its own sacrosanct ideas:by rejecting teaching methods which do not conform to their own theoretical preconceptions, teachers and education academics had become, although they would hate to accept the description, illiberal.

Mr Woodhead's comments have reaped a predictable whirlwind from teachers' spokesmen who suggested ominously that the truce which they have declared with the present Education Secretary could be put at risk by the Chief Inspector's comments. But the fallacies which the Chief Inspector described as dominating classroom teaching will be easily recognised by exasperated parents and dissident teachers who have attempted to hold out against the prevailing dogma.

For too long, the teaching of whole classes has been neglected in favour of work with small groups of children, designed to break down the "authoritarian" role of the teacher. Teachers were instructed to present themselves as facilitators — there simply to guide children's own processes of discovery — rather than as sources of expertise. The most pejorative word in the education lexicon became "*didactic*". Teachers were not to instruct — they were simply to supervise the child's own quest for knowledge.

At best, this ideal required every child to re-invent the wheel in his own time. At worst, it left many children floundering in an unstructured vacuum. A prohibition on value judgments meant that teachers could not confidently pass on what was best in the cultural heritage. By insisting that pupils only be taught what was "relevant" to their own lives, teachers helped to trap deprived children in the limitations of their own backgrounds.

What had apparently been forgotten was the part that education could play in liberating children from their immediate environment and the necessary role that adult expertise played in that process. By abdicating this responsibility, schools were effectively disinheriting children by failing *to equip them with enough knowledge to* participate in their own culture.

Government reforms have helped to expose the extent of the damage done to state education by the doctrines which Mr Woodhead has attacked. The results of the first national curriculum tests of 11 and 14 year olds published this week suggest that schools are failing a depressingly large proportion of their pupils. But real improvements in performance cannot come without the change in teachers' attitudes which the Chief Inspector is demanding. His views clearly deserve the support of the Government. What is less clear is how such a reversal in the entrenched attitudes of a profession is to be achieved. But however it is to proceed, Mr Woodhead has made a valuable beginning.

TO SELL THE LOTTERY

The weekly draw needs a dose of dignity

The National Lottery has already become a weekly fixture in the life of the nation. Stores which sell tickets for the draw have "lottery-only" lines on a Saturday. Financial analysts report that ticket-buying has had a perceptible impact upon spending and saving patterns in this country in the last two *months. This evening, more than ten million* viewers will watch the draw on television. Already, the winners have ranged from the fiercely private to the media-friendly, from the pensioner picking up an extra £10 to the young girl turned millionairess. We are quickly growing used to the cultural implications — expected and unexpected — of the lottery.

Those who claim baldly that this weekly ritual subverts our national character are wrong. The essence of the lottery is a celebration of unexpected good fortune rather than unscrupulous greed. It acknowledges the role of fate in all our lives. To buy a ticket is not an act of venality. It signals our willingness as a nation to accept the music of chance and to enjoy it. *Though the likelihood* of winning the jackpot is very small, thousands of Britons still join the game every week. The pleasure of the lottery lies in its sheer arbitrariness: Today Dick Whittington: tomorrow Lord Mayor of London.

Weeks after its launch, the lottery is a already a national treasure in the making. For this reason, its promise must be carefully nurtured. The presentation of the *lottery on television, it should* be admitted, has been highly unsatisfactory. BBC1's short Saturday evening programme announcing the winning numbers has been the conspicuously weak link in the otherwise impressive launch of this new venture.

The sheer length of the BBC's coverage has conspired against it. There is little to say about the weekly draw — which is why many people already prefer to check the winning numbers on ITV where they are flashed on screen *sans fanfare*. In addition, the BBC has made the mistake of couching *its presentation in barely suppressed* hysteria. Tackiness and vulgarity have crept into the proceedings. The draw has often appeared crass rather than entertaining.

Precisely because the stakes in the lottery are so high, a measure of dignity is required in the announcement of its winners. There is no reason why the Saturday evening programme should not last 15 minutes. But if it does, the time should be employed constructively. Far too little has been said about the 28 per cent of the lottery takings which will be spent on the arts, sport, national heritage and the millennium fund. As ticket-buyers spin the wheel of fortune, they should be reminded of the sort of project their money will go towards, even if *its exact destination has yet to be settled.* If specific beneficiaries have yet to be chosen, this precious airtime should be devoted to more general charitable appeals to take advantage of the lottery's captive audience. Why not a few minutes on Rwanda's plight?

It should be explained to viewers that every ticket they buy represents a small contribution to the common good as well as a tiny investment in fate. In the lottery, self-interest and national pride blend more happily than has been made clear. John Major was right to proclaim that this new institution would "enhance our national life": its organisers should not forget their original mission.

THE SPIRIT OF DOING IT

Texas changes owners: the world carries on regardless

To "do it on" is to swindle. To "do it away" is to fence stolen goods. To "do it brown" is to frolic longer than prudence demands. But to "do it yourself" is to be a hero of the home, a power-drill man, the perfect symbol of this modern age in which an English home is not a castle unless the Englishman (or his *partner) has piled up some of the bricks.*

This week has been unusually busy for the owners of DIY stores: Texas Homecare has been sold to Sainsbury's and B&Q has brought bad financial results and even worse executive job prospects at the Kingfisher group. But, as our Deputy Business Editor describes in our Weekend section 'oday, for the real DIY people who throng he stores like ghosts in the seventh circle of rell, life goes on as normal. No cowboy will 'do it on" them this weekend. No crooked urtisan will build their extension with "done iway" plaster board. There will be no rolicking of any kind for these activists. 'ake two alloy brackets, a dozen rawlplugs nd a pile of shrink-wrapped planks and hey will have those shelves up in two shakes f a tin of paint. Magic — or should that be Aagicoat?

The self-service hardware store on the ndustrial estate outside town has been part f our landscape for barely 30 years. But ow we could no more do without it than we ould give up soup in tins. Those first B&Q nen, Messrs Block and Quayle of *outhampton, are twentieth century heroes,* longside that great early TV icon, Barry ucknell, the Fanny-and-Johnny Cradock of the instant bunk-bed.Various changes helped to create DIY. First, new technology — from the power drill to the the electric screwdriver and the vital rawlplug — made *building and repair work easier* and gave enthusiasts gadgets to collect. Secondly, the cost of labour became the last luxury: while consumer durables became proportionately cheaper, decent builders became so expensive that for most the choice was between paying crooks in cash for uncertain work or doing their own.

Many men, finding that long hours in the saloon bar were increasingly less appre*ciated when they* came home, found in DIY a more acceptable excuse for escaping domestic chores. Women may have been quick to recognise that when a hammer is put into their man's hand, two objects of roughly equal intelligence were being brought together. But it took longer to plan a counter offensive: so onwards came the onslaught of asymetric cupboards, curtain rails like rollercoasters and contemporary paint shades named after vegetables.

Those cavernous Sorcerer's Apprentice halls tempted every apprentice with scents of putty *and* planed wood, *and new* flanges and gismoes. Their ownership may change but their products will continue to appeal to *man's* most basic instincts — fret-work, peace-and-quiet and something-for-nothing. Once invented the virtues of DIY can never be lost — or not until hell freezes over, paint stops drying and every shelf in the land will hold its spirit-level with pride.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Anguish of Holocaust and how the world responded

From Mr Sidney Sugarman

Sir, I would like to add to your report on "the case of the 1,000 Jewish orphans sent to Auschwitz" (January 23). The September 7, 1942, meeting of *officials from the Home and Foreign* Offices was conducted in the presence of Sir Herbert Emerson, the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. On *September 8* he informed the Home Secretary, Herbert Morrison, that French exit visas for these children could be obtained.

The reasons given by Morrison for rejecting Emerson's suggestions make very sad reading: He said

> the general policy has been not to admit additional refugees to the United Kingdom unless in some quite rare and exceptional cases it can be shown that the admission of the refugee will be directly advantageous to our war effort. *Any departure from this* rigid policy is liable to lead to fresh claims and additional pressure for the admission to the United Kingdom of persons who are in danger or distress, and I am convinced that it would not be right to make any general departure from the principle that the United Kingdom is unable, during the period of the war at any rate, to accept additional refugees. (Foreign Office papers 371/32683, Public Record Office).

And so the French put the children on the train to Auschwitz. A fuller account is contained in my forthcoming book, *The Unrelenting Conflict*.

Yours faithfully,
SIDNEY SUGARMAN,
8 Airthrey Court,
5 Wilderton Road, Poole, Dorset.
January 24.

From Mrs A. G. Wylie

Sir, With reference to your report, "Britain's role in Auschwitz deaths to be recalled" (January 23), I for one would like it recorded that Britain took in hundreds of children after the *Kristallnacht* in November 1938. These children were brought out of Germany via the *Kindertransport, and thus saved, to start a new life in a* country that showed compassion, which was not apparent in France and other countries. I was one of them.

Yours sincerely,
ILSE WYLIE,
Firgrove, Edinburgh Road,
Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway.
January 23.

From Mr Gerd Treuhaft

Sir, In your leader, "Out of Auschwitz" (January 26), you said that "Many historical questions continue to be *asked about the Holocaust ... Should* the Allies have bombed the supply lines to the concentration camps? Should Churchill have made peace with *Hitler* earlier, *as revisionist* historians claim?"

If the "free world" (USA, France, Great Britain and the Dominions) would have opened their doors to the Jews from Germany and Austria the Holocaust would never have happened. Even as late as 1938, when we prisoners hoped that the Evian conference, called that July, to offer a home to refugees from Nazi oppression, was going to find a solution to our problems by opening the doors for an emigration to Africa, we were disappointed about the negative results.

Yours sincerely,
GERD TREUHAFT
(Prisoner, Dachau, May-September
1938; Buchenwald,
September 1938-May 1939),
49 Clements Road,
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.
January 26.

From Mr Gerard Noel

Sir, Despite everything that has been said about Pope Pius XII and Nazism (Ruth Gledhill, January 14; letters, January 19) it may be that the most crucial question of all has yet to be asked: did that Pope ever make a totally unambiguous condemnation of Nazi evils, couched in starkly moral as opposed to cautiously diplomatic language?

The answer is yes — once only to my knowledge. In a speech to his College of Cardinals in Rome he thundered that Nazism was "a satanic spectre ... *the arrogant apostasy from Jesus* Christ, the denial of his death and his work of redemption, the cult of violence, the idolatry of race and blood, *the overthrow of human liberty and* dignity".

This unprecedentedly ferocious attack was made in June 1945, by which time Hitler was already dead.

Yours truly,
GERARD NOEL
(Editorial Director), *Catholic Herald*,
Herald House,
Lamb's Passage, Bunhill Row, EC1.
January 21.

From Professor A. N. Newman

Sir, Even if the Pope had as his main *task the protection of the* Catholic community in Europe (William Rees-Mogg, "The importance of being more than Pius", January 23) and thus felt no urge to protect the Jews, what did he do to protect those whose grandparents might well have been Jews but whose parents had joined the Roman Catholic Church and who themselves were devout members of the Church?

There were priests, monks and nuns *who had to wear the yellow star of* Judaism, while in Theresienstadt there were chapels for Roman Catholic service and a mortuary designated *for those who were Roman Catholics* but who had been immured in that camp.

Lord Rees-Mogg comments that the policies of the Papacy helped half a million or a million to survive. While I am sceptical of the larger number I would doubt very much if the Pope (as distinct from individual churchmen or bodies) had much to do with that survival.

It might be felt that the Pope felt constrained by the physical presence of the German armies in and around Rome: why then did the Papacy not issue any condemnation after the liberation of Rome in June 1944, or indeed after the war?

Yours etc,
AUBREY NEWMAN
(Honorary Director),
The Stanley Burton Centre for
Holocaust Studies,
University of Leicester,
University Road, Leicester.
January 25.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, I do not think that the Holocaust is an inexplicable phenomenon as Bernard Levin does (January 27). In-group solidarity is balanced by out-group hostility throughout human history. There is nothing unusual about even the most civilised people committing *the most frightful atrocities, including* what are now called ethnic cleansing and genocide.

In the ancient world the Greeks and Romans *built their civilisation* by conquering "barbarians". In the Middle Ages Christians and Muslims held a balance of power by mutual massacre. In the modern age the Europeans who conquered most of the Earth exploited, expelled, enslaved or exterminated the natives of North, Central and South America, southern Africa and Australasia.

Slavery, which was endemic in *every civilisation, was part of our own* until quite recently. Anti-Semitism was endemic in Christendom from its beginnings in the New Testament, was an essential element of the Crusades and the Inquisition and was a normal part of European political, social and cultural life until the pogroms and the Final Solution showed where it led.

European civilisation brought atrocity to its peak in the equal and opposite tyrannies of Fascism and Communism and in the shared techniques of total war against civilian populations. *Colour and race hatred and horror* are still the norm.

The Holocaust, far from being unique, is the theoretical and practical conclusion of one aspect of the human heritage: mass murder perfected through the techniques of mass production.

Yours truly,
NICOLAS WALTER,
88 Islington High Street, N1.

Cabinet and Europe

From the President of the Board of Trade

Sir, I have been a member of a Conservative Cabinet or shadow cabinet, with one gap, for nearly 21 years.

To the best of my knowledge I have never slept through any one of them. But for your front-page story in today's paper ("Hurd's brief on Europe is rejected", later editions) about the stance of the Government towards the forthcoming inter-governmental conference, I must have broken the habit of a lifetime.

There is of course another explanation and that is that *The Times*, in pursuit of its editorial obsessions about Europe, has distorted its news columns to reflect its prejudices as opposed to the truth.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HESELTINE,
House of Commons.
January 27.

Case of Private Clegg

From Professor Emeritus Philip Rhodes

Sir, The case of Private Lee Clegg [letters, January 21, 24, 25, 26] shows clearly that there is a difference between the law and justice which the legal system seems incapable of recognising. The difference is daily *apparent in the newspapers.*

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP RHODES,
1 Wakerley Court,
Wakerley, Oakham, Leicestershire.
January 24.

From Mr Alec Tilley

Sir, Your Law Report today quotes Lord Lloyd of Berwick as saying that "there had been no suggestion in the appellant's evidence ... that he had thought that the driver of the car was a terrorist".

Private Clegg *could only* have thought that the driver was a terrorist. No soldier could possibly guess that he had been posted, armed and equipped as for war, to stop unarmed teenaged joyriders; and no one had told him. It is understandable if this point was *thought too obvious* to need emphasis in court.

That a man should stand convicted of murder because it had not occurred to his defence to tell the court that pigs don't have wings or that night follows day is to take the doctrine of judicial ignorance to a preposterous extreme.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC TILLEY,
Fieldfare, East Street, Hambledon,
Waterlooville, Hampshire.
January 25.

Research hurdles

From Professor Donald W. Braben

Sir, The government White Paper, *Realising Our Potential*, published in May 1993, gave the research councils a mission to enhance the UK's industrial competitiveness and quality of life. The latest application form (December 1994) for a research grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, which is now the *biggest source of academic* research funds in the UK, runs to seven pages and is accompanied by 16 pages of *notes for the guidance of applicants.*

All proposals must be "countersigned" by a head of department and an administrative officer before they can be submitted. Applicants must identify the beneficiaries of their proposals, summarise their plans for protecting and exploiting the results, describe how the results will be disseminated and provide a diagrammatic project plan — all before the research has begun. The great majority of postdoctoral researchers, those on short-term contracts, are excluded from making an application.

It is difficult to conceive of arrangements more *likely to inhibit innovation*. How would British scientists such as Paul Dirac, Dorothy Hodgkin, Brian Josephson, Peter Mitchell, Nevill Mott, Geoffrey Wilkinson and many others have fared if they were setting out today and their prospects for winning financial backing depended on providing a three-year plan for the bureaucrats? Scientists engaged in *research can usually barely see three* weeks ahead.

These scientists not only won Nobel prizes; they made substantial contributions to technology and to wealth-creation which no one could have predicted.

The relatively low level of British industrial investment in science and technology is a serious problem, but it is ignored in the White Paper. Turning *our universities into short-term* research units whose output *might* be taken up by industry will destroy a priceless infrastructure for which Brit*ain is famed. Is that what we want?*

Yours faithfully,
DON BRABEN
(Chief Executive),
Venture Research International Ltd,
13-14 Mount Road,
Theydon Mount, Epping, Essex.
January 17.

Putting on the hype

From Mr L. S. Cockerham

Sir, I have frequently wondered if the *current conflict at Saatchi* & Saatchi (reports, January 3 and *passim*) is one huge publicity stunt, the sole object of which is to propagate the Saatchi *name throughout the English-speaking* world — and perhaps beyond — rather like pre-fight boxers who feign mutual hatred to draw in the punters.

What a terrific way to get massive free publicity — and now even Bernard Levin has added to it ("Imagine: Levin & Levin", January 20). I'll wager that if you take a sample of 100 people at random anywhere in the country today, and ask them to name an ad*vertising agency, they'll* all give the same response.

At the end of this promotional event, the participants will make up (there'll probably be some pseudo-litigious financial settlement between them to give a final boost to the promotion), and then — back to business. What a brilliant wheeze — it deserves to succeed!

Yours faithfully,
L. S. COCKERHAM,
47 Plantation Road,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
January 20.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

UN relations

From Mr Fred Eckhard

Sir, Spokesmen routinely issue official denials, but in this case I wish to make a very personal one. I did not leave the Geneva talks on the Former Yugoslavia because of a disagreement with *Lord Owen, as you say was believed to* be the case (report, January 24).

As the joint spokesman for the EU/UN-sponsored talks I was part of a tightly knit team. *When I left* — to a genuinely warm tribute by David Owen at my last press briefing — it was for family reasons only. I feel privileged to have worked with him.

Sincerely,
FRED ECKHARD
(Associate Spokesman for the
Secretary-General),
United Nations,
New York, NY 10017.
January 25.

Card colours

From Mr Geoffrey Sadow

*Sir, The playing-card colour reform*ers (report, January 24) do not appear to have allowed for those of us who are afflicted with red/green colour blindness.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY SADOW,
19 Coombe Ridings,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Pipes, chips and sounds of music

From the President of the International Society of Organbuilders

Sir, Oxford musicians are right to complain about the proposed *installation* of an electronic organ in the Sheldonian Theatre (report and leading article, "Bach for Yamaha", January 25).

They know that such spurious sounds will be inappropriate for their needs and for that building.

The Sheldonian organ has been in the care of my firm since 1963. Though admittedly imperfect in its present state, it is well made and capable of restoration. Each of its 2,102 pipes is a real musical instrument: many of them have a distinguished Victorian origin.

To dismiss the pipe organ as old-fashioned is to miss the point — it is no more old-fashioned than the violin. A group of loudspeakers may convince for a while (especially if "concealed behind the pipe-facade of the existing organ"), but cannot approach the live*ly sound of a multitude of pipes. This* is why synthetic organ tone is so often found wearisome in prolonged use.

There is nothing wrong about new *musical instruments in themselves. It* is the *falsity* of electronic organs that J. S. Bach would surely have detested.

Yours faithfully,
MARK VENNING,
President, International Society of
Organbuilders,
c/o Harrison & Harrison Ltd,
Hawthorne Terrace, Durham.
January 26.

From Mr David Fishwick

Sir, Perhaps the answer to the dilemma of the Sheldonian authorities is to accept the gift of an electronic organ, pending the acquisition of funds for a new pipe organ.

You are right to say that digital organs have reached a standard nowadays which is comparable with the best pipe organ tradition, and many an organist like myself is thrilled to have one at home. But think how it would be if we applied this argument every time a new organ was proposed. None would *ever* be built and the whole industry would become a matter of history: we should have a genre based entirely on imitation of the real *thing*.

This is rather sad, because pipe organs, perhaps more than any other instrument, are individual works of their maker's art.

We should no longer look forward to hearing the beauty of a new and subtle variation on an old stop, with the signature of its builder in the sound, or the effect of a chorus that speaks to us of one region, maybe, or of one particular building.

So although a new pipe organ will never satisfy the cost-benefit-analysis brigade, I for one hope this ancient *craft continues to enrich and inspire* our children. We will all be the losers if the only sounds we hear come out of a loudspeaker, however good.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FISHWICK,
51 Apeldoorn Drive,
Wallington, Surrey.
January 25.

From Mrs Ann Geary

Sir, Bach was a musician, not an electrician.

Yours faithfully,
ANN GEARY,
4 Market House, Market Place,
Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.
January 26.

The Cantona affair

From Mr J. A. Armitt, FEng

Sir, Yes, of course, Eric Cantona's assault (reports, January 26, 27; letter, January 27) was wrong and is not the example expected or required from an idolised sportsman, but more important issues are exposed.

Extreme verbal abuse has become an everyday feature of British life, another dimension of a violent society. Excused on and off the football terraces as a man's alternative to physical violence or war it is, as here, so often the spark for violence.

It seems to me to reflect poor education, low self-esteem and a lack of respect and humanity toward others. These are the issues in our society which we *must* face and resolve.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ARMITT,
Farmbourne, Two Dells Lane,
Ashley Green, Buckinghamshire.
January 27.

From Mr Harvey Kass

Sir, Eric is innocent OK! To suggest that he has brought "the game into disrepute" is a little like a charge of murdering a corpse.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY KASS,
48 Howard Walk, N2.
January 27.

From Mr Ken Broad

Sir, There is little doubt that Mr Can*tona deserves all the punishment he* gets from the Football Association. Has there ever been such a dreadful cardigan?

Yours truly,
KEN BROAD,
Manor Court,
Church Aston, Newport, Shropshire.
January 27.

[illegible]

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 27: The Queen was represented by the *Reverend Gordon Watkins* (Priest in Ordinary) at the *Funeral of the Reverend David Tonge* (Chaplain to The Queen) which was held in *Holy Innocents Church*, Kidderminster, today.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 27: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal United Services *Institute, this morning received Rear-*Admiral Richard Cobbold, Director.

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened the Ryedale Community House, Wentworth Street, Malton, *North Yorkshire*, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-*Lieutenant for North Yorkshire (Sir* Marcus Worsley, Bt).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Nestlé UK Limited, Nestlé *Rowntree Division, Haxby Road*, York, and later visited the York and *District Deaf Society's Centre for the* Deaf, Bootham House, Bootham, *York, North Yorkshire.*

Mrs Richard Beckett was in attendance.

Weekend birthdays

Today
Mr M.J. Ainsworth, chief executive, Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, 48; Mr Alan Alda, actor, 59; Mr Mikhail Baryshnikov, ballet dancer and actor, 47; Mrs Valerie Bragg, Principal, City Technology College, Kingshurst, Birmingham, 48; Mr James Callaghan, MP, 68; Miss Enid Castle, Principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 59; Sir Oliver Chesterton, chartered surveyor, 82; Mr James Cran, MP, 51; Mr John Edmonds, trade unionist, 51; Mr M.G. Falcon, former chairman, Norwich Union Insurance Group, 67; Mr Glyn Ford, MEP, 45; Sir Anthony Garner, former director *of organisation, Conservative Central* Office, 68; Professor Sir Henry Harris, *former Professor of Medicine*, 70; Mr J.D. Hughes, former Principal, *Ruskin College, Oxford*, 68; Mr Bill Jordan, trade unionist, 59; Sir Timothy *Kitson, former MP*, 64; Mr Alfred Marks, actor and comedian, 74; the Rev David Morris, MEP, 65; Mr Gordon Prentice, MP, 44; Mr Nick Raynsford, MP, 50; Mr Gareth Roscoe, legal adviser to the BBC, 47; *Mr Ronnie Scott, jazz musician*, 68; Major-General Martin Sinnatt, former secretary, Kennel Club, 67; Sir Trevor Skeet, MP, 77; Professor John Tavener, composer, 51; Mr David Thompson, former chairman, Gestetner Holdings, 63; the Rev B.R. White, former Principal, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 61; the Very Rev James Whyte, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 75; Lord Windlesham, 63.

Tomorrow
Dr R.C. Alston, bibliographer, 62; Mr Malcolm Binns, concert pianist, 59; Mr Leslie Bricusse, composer and lyricist, 64; Major-General Sir George *Burns*, 84; Mr Peter Byrne, actor, 67; Lord Clyde, 63; Dr Alec *Coppen, psychiatrist*, 72; *the Right* Rev Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, Ab*bot of Downside*, 54; *Mr John* Gallagher, rugby league player, 31; Dr Germaine Greer, *author*, 56; Lord Gregson, 71; Professor F.R. Hartley, Vice-Chancellor, Cranfield Institute of Technology, 53; Mr Paul Hodder-Williams, publisher, 85; Earl Howe, 44; Mr John Junkin, actor and writer, 65; Mr Sean Kerly, hockey player, 35; Mrs Margaret Laird, Third Church Estates Commissioner, 62; Lord Lane of Horsell, 70; Mr Michael Mavor, Head Master, Rugby School, 48; Mr Richard Needham, MP, 53; Mr James Nicholson, MEP, 50; Mr Andy *Roberts, cricketer*, 44; *Professor* Abdus Salam, theoretical physicist, 69; *Mr Tom Selleck, actor*, 50; Mr Raman Subba Row, former chair*man, Test and County Cricket Board*, 63; Viscount Tonypandy, 86; Mr Brian Trubshaw, former test pilot, 71; Mr Israel Wetrin, managing director, Elonex, 48.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: King Henry VII, reigned *1485-1509, Pembroke Castle*, 1457; John Baskerville, typographer and *printer*, Worcester, *1706; Charles* George Gordon, general, London, *1833; Sir Henry Stanley, explorer and* journalist, Denbigh, 1841; William *Seward Burroughs, pioneer of adding* machines, New York, 1855; Co*lette, writer, St-Sauveur-en-Puisaye*, 1873; Auguste Piccard, physicist, sea and stratosphere explorer, Basel, 1884; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, Lodz, Poland, 1886; Jackson Pollock, expressionist painter, Cody, Wyoming, 1912; Harry Corbett, puppeteer and entertainer, Bradford, Yorkshire, 1918.

DEATHS: Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor 800-814, Aachen, Germany, 814; King Henry VIII, reigned 1509-47, Greenwich, 1547; Sir Francis Drake, navigator and pirate, Porto Bello, West Indies, 1596; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, London, 1612; William Burke, body-snatcher, executed in Edinburgh, 1829; William Butler Yeates, poet and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1923, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, 1939; Billy Fury, singer, London, 1983.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Emmanuel Swedenborg, philosopher, Stockholm, 1688; Thomas Paine, radical and writer, *Thetford, Norfolk, 1737; Henry Neele*, poet, London, 1798; Sir James *Outram, general, Bulterley Hall*, Derbyshire, 1803; William McKinley, *25th American President 1897-1901*, Niles, Ohio, 1843; Sir Ebenezer Howard, *pioneer of garden cities*, London, 1850; Anton Chekhov, playwright, Tagarov, Russia, 1860; Frederick Delius, composer, Bradford, 1862; W.C. Fields, actor and comedian, Philadelphia, 1880.

DEATHS: *Robert Sanderson, Bishop* of Lincoln 1660-63, Buckden, Huntingdon, 1663; King George III, reigned 1760-1820, Windsor, 1820; Edward Lear, poet and artist, San Remo, Italy, 1888; Alfred Sisley, painter, Monet-sur-Loing, 1899; Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, field-marshal, London, 1928; James Bridie (Osborne Henry Mavor), dramatist, Edinburgh, 1951; Henry Louis Mencken, writer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1956; Fritz Kreisler, violinist, New York, 1962; Robert Frost, poet, Boston, Massachusetts, 1963; Jimmy Durante, actor and comedian, California, 1980.

Royal engagements

TOMORROW: The Duchess of Kent will present the *Evening Standard* British Film Awards at the Savoy Hotel at 7.00.

Lecture

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine
The Eighth Colin Cherry Me*morial Lecture on Communica*tion, "An Art Historian's Debt to *Colin Cherry*", was delivered at Imperial College on January 24, by Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, OM. Professor Bruce Sayers, FEng, was in the chair and Professor Richard Gregory, CBE, proposed the vote of thanks. The lecture was sponsored by the Department of Electrical and Elec*tronic Engineering*.

Luncheon

Carmen's Company
Mr M.E.G Taylor, Master of the Carmen's Company, assisted by Mr G. Golder and Mr J.M.B. Gotch, wardens, presided at a court luncheon held yesterday at Haberdashers' Hall. Mr T.J. Simco and Mr Richard Saunders also spoke.

Dinner

Architects & Surveyors Institute
Sir Gerard Vaughan, MP, an Honorary Fellow of the Architects and Surveyors Institute, was the host at a dinner held last night at the House of Commons for the institute and in aid of their guests, the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR). Mr Alan Mitchell, Chairman of the London region of RADAR, presided. Mr Bert Massie, Director of RADAR, and Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, and Mr Tony Forward also spoke.

TIM OCKENDEN

A 1934 Austin 7 Special at speed on the banking at Brooklands yesterday. The car, driven by Bill Higgins and his son David from East Horsley, Surrey, was *taking part in a classic car run from London to Edinburgh*

Church news

Appointments
The Rev John Jenkins, Vicar, Holy Cross, Inns Court, *Bristol* (Bristol): to be Rector, Odcombe w Brympton, Lufton and Montacute (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Ian Johnson, Team Rector, Langley and Parkfield Team Ministry: to be Diocesan Adviser in Evangelism and Priest-in-charge, St Anne's, Haughton (Manchester).

The Rev April Keech, Vicar, The Church of Christ and St Stephen, Manhattan (New York): to be Vicar, St John w Holy Trinity, Deptford (Southwark).

The Rev John Moore, Director of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, Athena Park, Warwick: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Coventry Cathedral.

The Rev Timothy Mullins, Assistant Curate, Haughton-le-Skerne (Durham): to be Chaplain at Eton College, Berkshire as from September 1995.

The Rev Clive Murrie, Vicar, St Saviour, Coalpit Heath (Bristol): to be Priest-in-charge, St Michael, Sittingbourne (Canterbury).

The Rev Christopher Noble, Curate, St Peter and St Paul, Tonbridge: to be Priest-in-charge, Stansted w Fairseat and Vigo (Rochester).

The Rev Graham Oakes, Vicar, King Cross, Halifax (Wakefield): to be Rector, Holy Trinity, Bath (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Kerry Pring, Priest-in-charge, Nash w Thornton, Beachampton and Thornborough (Oxford): to be Rector there.

The Rev David Quance, Rector, St John the Evangelist, Failsworth: to be Priest-in-charge, Christ Church, Healey (Manchester).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.S. Harrison
and Miss Z.E. Clarke
The engagement is announced between Mark Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Harrison, of Sparsholt, Wantage, Oxfordshire, and Zoë Elizabeth, younger daughter of Commander and Mrs Robert Clarke, of Spirthill, Calne, Wiltshire.

Mr D.M. Heron
and Miss R.L. Chapman
The engagement is announced between Daniel Mark, son of Mr *and Mrs D. Heron*, of Muswell Hill, London, and Rachel Lynn, only daughter of His Honour and Mrs E. Chapman, of Great Witley, Worcester.

Mr J.R.C.R. Lang
and Miss C. Cavanagh
The engagement is announced between Justin Robert Charles Reynolds, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Lang, of Bosham, West Sussex, and Colette, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs J.G. Cavanagh, of Welford on Avon, Warwickshire.

Mr P.R. Lees
and Miss A.V. Guyetsky
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Roger Lees, of Holt, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, and Anna, *daughter of Mr Victor* and Dr Dina Guyetsky, of Boston, *Massachusetts, U.S.A.*

Mr C.J. Leney
and Miss C.A. Bryce
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Captain and Mrs Michael Leney, of Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Bryce, of Hintlesham, Suffolk.

Mr J. Percy
and Miss J.E.H. Williams
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs James Percy, of Brighton, East Sussex, and Justina, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Jonathan Williams, of Hove, East Sussex.

Mr A.C. Nairne
and Miss N.W. Dandridge
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Sir Patrick and Lady Nairne, of Chilson, Oxfordshire, and Nicola, daughter of the late Mr Lawrence Arthur Dandridge and the late Mrs Dorothy Onslow.

Mr A.W. Panoho
and Miss H.M.A. Vyvyan
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr Charles Panoho and Mrs Rosalie Panoho, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Anastasia, daughter of the Reverend and Mrs J.P. Vyvyan, of Devoran, Cornwall.

Mr N.W. Sharp
and Miss C.J. Northcroft
The engagement is announced between Neil William, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Sharp, of Frittenden, Kent, and Charlotte Jane, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Northcroft, also of Frittenden.

Mr D.M. Sowrey
and Miss C.A. McDonald
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of the *late Mr William Sowrey and of* Mrs Carol Sowrey, of Bicknoller, Somerset, and Ciara, *eldest daugh*ter of Mr and Mrs Patrick McDonald, of Chertsey, Surrey.

Marriage

Mr P.V. Harrington
and Miss S.B. Marray
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 7, 1995, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London, W1, between Mr Paul Vincent Harrington, son of Mrs Muriel Harrington and the late Mr Patrick Harrington, of Wimbledon, and Miss Shelagh Bernadette Marray, daughter of Major (Retd) and Mrs Denis Marray, of Bovingdon, Hertfordshire.

A reception was held at the Lansdowne Club, W1.

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch, Rt Rev M Whinney; 4 Choral E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Locus iste (Bruckner), The Gloucester Mass (Shephard), Let thy merciful ears (Mudd), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Clucas), The Second Service (Leighton), Christus factus est (Bruckner), Canon P Johnson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30, 11 S Euch, Missa super bel'amfitrit altera (Lassus), Rev R Symon; 9.30 M, Nave; 3.15 E, Responses (Leighton), Piccolo Third Service, Lord I call upon Thee (Bairstow); 6.30 Compline, The Dean.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Sonata in G, Ireland in C, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Archdeacon D Turnbull; 3 E, Locus iste (Bruckner), Responses (Smith), How lovely are Thy dwellings (Brahms).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, So come to him (Elliott), Missa brevis (Palestrina), Rev R *Cadman; 4 Baptism; 6 Installation of Bishop of* Colchester and the Asst Bishop, Responses (Reading), Stanford in G, Thou wilt keep him *(Wesley), Bishop of Colchester.*

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Dyson in F, Canon T Dennis; 11.30 Choral *Euch, Lord for thy tender mercy's sake* (Hilton); 5.30 E, Responses (Morris), Fourth Service (Batten), Thou wilt keep him (Wesley); 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Ireland in C, Behold now praise the Lord (Wilson), Responses (Reading), Ven C Pinder; 11 S Euch, Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Tantum ergo (Elgar), The Chancellor; 3.30 E, Blair in B minor, Jauchzet dem Herren (Schutz).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), When to the temple (Eccard), Rev P Fisher; 5.30 E, I sing of a maiden (Berkeley), Responses (Rose), Sumsion in G, When to the temple (Eccard).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; *10.30 S Euch*, Schubert in G, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), The Dean; 3.45 E, Rubbra in A flat, Light of the world *(Elgar).*

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, O quam gloriosum est regnum (Victoria), *Open thou mine eyes* (Rutter), *Rev C Allen*; 4 Choral E, Farrant in A minor, Respones (Statham), O praise God (Whyte), Canon G Sealy.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Sarum *Mass* (Leighton), Mr D Day; 11.15 M, Short Service (Gibbons); 3.45 E, Fourth Service (Batten), O sing unto the Lord (Purcell), The Precentor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Te deum in C (Britten), Pater noster (Stravinsky); 3.30 E, Responses (Smith), Stanford in C, Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton), Canon H Thomas; 3.30 Choral E, Dyson in D, Canon M Boyling; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8 Euch; 9 Parish Euch, Rev N Court; 11 S Euch, Schubert in B flat, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd); *12.15 HC (Lady* Chapel); 3.30 E, Canticles (Blair in B minor), Greater love hath no man (Ireland); 6.30 *Readings & Music.*

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mozart in B flat, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), *Canon J Stewart; 11.30 M, Responses (Tomkins)*, Purcell in B flat, Jubilate in C (Boyce), O priase the Lord (Batten), Canon P Roberts; 3 E, *Responses (Tomkins), Stanford in C, Bring us O* Lord God (Harris).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral *Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum* (Victoria), O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Rev Canon M Kitchen; 3 E, Wood in F (Coll Reg), Lucem tuam da nobis Deus (Cole).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Hide not thou thy face (Farrant), Truro Eucharist (Briggs), Listen sweet dove (Grayston Ives); 6 E, Responses (Aylewward), Wood in E flat, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), The Chancellor.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Sung Euch, Oculi omnium (Wood), The *Rev P De Lucas*; 11.30 Matins, Collegium Regale (Howells), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon); 3 E and *admission of chorister, When Jesus our Lord was* born (Mendelssohn), The Ven RF Acworth.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Respones *(Neary), Boyce in C, Behold the tabernacle of God* (Harris), Canon D Gray; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Mass in Four parts / Priase the Lord all ye gentiles / Ave *verum corpus* (Byrd); *3 E, Coll Reg (Howells)*, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Rev P Cowell; 6.30 ES, Canon A Harvey.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM, Missa Vidi speciosam (Victoria), Ave virgo sanctissima (Guerrero), Cibavit eos (Byrd); 10 MP; 3.30 V & B, Magnificat primi toni (Victoria), O salutaris hostia (Rossini), Toccata Veni Creator (Litaize).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Benedictus (Gibbons), A spotless rose (Howells), Rt Rev Lord Coggan; 11.30 Euch, Mess solennelle (Langlais), Concerto in G (Vivaldi / Bach); 3.30 E, Jesus Service (Mathias), Bethlehem Down (Warlock), Rev C Stewart.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; *10 S Euch, Darke* in F, Canon R Metcalfe; 11.30 M, Responses (Gibbons & Barnard), Ireland in F; 4 E, Stanford *in C, Tribus miraculus (Palestrina), V Rev R* Furnell.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, *Darke in A minor*, Hymne à la Viergo (Villette), The Dean; 3.30 EP.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Fr P Turner.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Gloria in excelsis, Missa brevis (Kodaly), The Minister; 11.30 MS, Dum complerentur (Palestrina), The Minister; St Giles at Six, Moray House College Choir; 8 ES, Rev Sheila Mitchell.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 10.15 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), *Ave Jesu Christe (Phillips), Rev C Mann; 3.15 E*, Darke in F, Praise our Lord all ye gentiles (Byrd), Responses (Leighton), Rev M Saward.

ALL SAINTS, *Margaret Street*, W1: *8, 5.15 LM*; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Quem vidistis pastores (Dering), *Rev P McGeary; 6 E&B, The Second Service* (Byrd), Behold the tabernacle of God (Harris), The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11, Mr D Turner; 6.30, Rev S Wookey.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Mass for four voices (Byrd), Blessed are they that fear (Purcell), Beati eritis (Croce).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, *SW3: 8 HC; 10* Children; 11 M, Jubilate / Listen sweet dove (Grayston Ives), Rev D Bean; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30, Rev S Hood.

***FARM STREET**, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15*, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Intende orationes meae (Elgar), Missa Brevis (Ives), Scio enim quod / Redemptor meus vivit (Lassus), Fr J Dooley.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev S Millar; 11 Informal, Mr J Jennings; 5, 7.30 Informal, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Lauda Sion (Palestrina), Puer natus in Bethlehem (Scheidt); 12.30, 4.30, 7 M; 3.30 V & B, O Sacrum convivium (Perosi).

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 *MS, Rev P Hulme.*

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Dr J Fuliga; 7 Service of Readings & Music.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Jubilate Deo (de Rore), Hunt in C, Rev A Winter; 6.30 E, Hunt in C, Jubilate Deo (Lassus), Rev A Winter.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral Euch, Ireland in F, *Aeterna Christi munera* (Palestrina), There shall a star from Jacob come forth (Mendelssohn), D Brown; 6.30 Choral E, *Responses (Ebdon), Purcell in B flat*, The Journey of the Magi (Britten), Rev J Burton.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Missa *Brevis (Palestrina), When Mary to the temple* went (Eccard), Rev B McAvoy.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: *11, 3 HC, Rev J McIndoe*; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Missa rex seculorum / Alma redemptoris mater (Dunstable), Alma redemptoris (Dufay).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, *W1: 8.30 HC*; 11 S Euch, Mozart in D, Faire is the heaven (Harris), The Rector.

***ST LUKE'S**, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch*, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Rev S Watson; 6.30 E, Lully lulla (Leighton), Rev G Beauchamp.

***ST MARK'S**, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45* Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

***ST MARGARET'S**, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch*, Missa brevis (Walton), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Canon D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, St Martin's Service (Stringer), Sing joyfully (Byrd), God so loved the world (Goss), Rev T Makgoba; 11.30 Visitors, Responses (Rose), Anglican Chant, My soul there is a country (Parry), Rev J Pridmore; 2.45 Chinese, *Rev G Lee*; 5 Choral E, Responses (Rose), Gloucester Service / Take him earth (Howells); 6.30 ES, Responses (Ferial), Anglican chant, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish *Euch*, Rev F Celli; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Celli; 6.30 Choral E, The Vicar.

***ST MARY'S**, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM*; 11 HM, Fr B Scott; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; *10.30 Euch, Mass for a Saint's Day (Jackson)*, O quam gloriosum (Byrd), Rev John Ovenden; 6 ES, Living with Faith.

***ST MARYLEBONE**, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC*; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Surely thou hast tasted that the Lord is good (Rose).

***ST PAUL'S**, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S* Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Cantate Domino (Hassler), The eyes of all wait upon thee (Harris).

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, *Missa cellensis (Haydn), Laudate* Dominum (Mozart), Canon C Colven.

ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, Windsor Castle: 8.30 *HC; 10.45 M, Responses (Smith), Jubilate for five* voices (Weelkes), Canon M Moxon; 11.45 S Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Mozart); 5.15 E, Responses (Smith), *Second Service* (Gibbons).

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, responses (Ebdon), Maria walls zum Heiligtum (Eccard), Canon J G M W Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Gloria in Excelsis (Weelkes), Bishop of St Albans.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Responses (Smith), Coll Reg (Howells), Christ whose glory fills the skies; 3.30 E, *How dear are thy counsels (Crotch), Walmisley in D* Minor, Teach me O Lord (Byrd).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: *8.15 HC*; 11 S Euch, Communion Service in E (Darke); Greater Love (Ireland).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Britten in C, Hymn to the Virgin (Britten), *Rev C* Chessun; 12.30 HC.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC, 11.15 SC, Darke in F, The Creed (Merbecke), The Master.

GUARDS' CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, *Sicut cervus* (Palestrina), And I saw a new heaven (Bainton); 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11, Sung Euch, From the rising of the sun (Ouseley), God so loved the world (Stainer), Rev C French.

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Psalm 61 : 8 (REB).

BIRTHS

CORRY - On January 21st, to Carol (née Hodge) and Roger, a daughter, Sarah *Anne*, a sister for Rebecca and William.

DONEGAN - On January 23rd 1995, to Vanessa (née *Northcote*) and Justin, a handsome son, Luke Dominic Peter, a brother for Chloë and Matthew.

GOVINDIA - On January 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Kirti & Shailesh, a son, a brother for Krishna, *Jaanki & Priya*. Grandson for Hansraj & Jaywanti.

HAMILTON-DEELEY - On January 6th 1995, to Helena (née Camilleri) and Gavin, a *first-born son*, James John.

HEANEY - On Saturday 21st January to Ann and Patrick, a son, Thomas James.

HELLIER - On 24th January, to Suzanne and Tim, a handsome son, Thomas William, a brother for Georgina.

HUTCHINGS MICHALOPOULOS - On January 18th 1995, to Sophia and Nikos, a son, *Aeneas Menelaos Thomas*.

JAMES - To Mary and John, *on January 25th 1995*, a boy.

MILLER - On 23rd January 1995, at Bishop Auckland Hospital, to Rebecca (née *Ridley*) and Patrick, a son, Hamish Francis, a brother for Hannah.

O'BRIEN - On January 25th, to Sarah (née Lovell) and *Rory, a daughter*, Imogen, a sister for Fenella and Lucy.

PALMER - On 16th January, in Hong Kong, to Angela and Jeremy, a daughter, Rose Katherine, a sister for Jack and William.

PARRY - On January 7th, in Lisbon, to Sheila and Hadyn, a daughter, Robyn Clare, a sister for Mark and David.

REES - On January 23rd, to *Julia (née Neale)* and Hugh, a daughter, Hannah Elisabeth Muriel, a sister for Emilie.

WEIR - On January 24th at The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Carrie (née Jackson) and Justin, a *daughter, Antonia Frances*.

DEATHS

BATTY-SMITH - On January 24th 1995, peacefully at Frinton-on-Sea and late of Lawshall, Suffolk, Dr. Charles George (Cap), B.A.(CAMB), M.D., B.Chir., aged 91 years. Much loved husband of the late Margaret, dearly loved father of Hilary *and Lindsay* and loving grandfather of Louise. Funeral Service to take place at Lawshall Parish Church on Friday February 3rd at *12 noon. Family flowers* only. Donations, if desired, to Essex Voluntary Association for the Blind may be sent c/o P.G. Oxley Ltd., 47 High *Street, Walton-on-Naze*, tel: (0255) 675549.

BLACK - On January 26th 1995, Peter, Journalist of Henfield, Sussex, late of *Wraysbury. For 52 years* loved and loving husband of Joan Mary died 1992. "She first deceased he for a little tried, to live without her, liked it not and died". Funeral Service at St Peters Church, Henfield, Friday *February 3rd at 12.15 pm*, followed by cremation. Afterwards reception at Springhills. No flowers please. Donations to charity of ones choice.

DEWAR - *Mary Dewar*, a leading authority on English Tudor history who had published several books, died December 29th, 1994 at her *home in Gainesville, Florida*. Born in Mossley, Lancashire, she received a BA with first class honours from Oxford University in 1942, an MA in history from Oxford in 1951, and a PhD in history at Queen Mary College *(University of London)* in 1956. Mrs. Dewar published several books, including, Sir Thomas Smith: A Tudor Intellectual in Office" and A Discourse of the Commonweal of This Realm of England". From 1965 to *1989 she was appointed as a* Social Science Research Associate at the University of Texas in Austin, where she and her husband, Professor Michael *J.S. Dewar, lived for* nearly 30 years before their move to Gainesville. The couple had also lived in Chicago, Illinois for four *years after first leaving* England in 1959. She is survived by her husband: two sons, Robert Dewar of New York City and Stewart *Dewar of Chicago*; and three grandchildren. Expressions of sympathy may be in the form of donations to Hospice of North Central Florida, *P.O. Box 15235, Gainesville*, Florida 32604, USA.

FLEMING - Peacefully at Perth Royal Infirmary on Tuesday January 24th 1995, Jeannette *Isabel Fleming* B.A. (Oxon), daughter of the late James Richard Fleming and the late Janet Fleming (née Stocks) and sister of the *late* Andrew Fleming. Funeral Service at Orwell Church, *Milnathort, on* Monday January 30th at 9.30 am thereafter to Perth Crematorium for 10.45 am. All friends are respectfully *invited. Flowers should be* sent to Stewart Funeral Directors, 14 High Street, Kinross.

FLETCHER - Gerrardine Mary on 28th January 1995, aged 94, peacefully at St Martin's Hospital, Bath, *widow of Basil*, dearly loved mother of Julie (Skrine) and John, and grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St John's Church Bath on *Saturday 4th February* at 11.am.

HARDING - On 19th January 1995, whilst skiing in France, Derek Michael *Jeffrey*, aged 62 years, beloved husband of Jill and dear father of Timothy and Toby and grandfather of George and Bethany. Funeral Service at Checkendon Parish Church, nr. Reading, on Wednesday 1st February 1995 at 12.30pm. Family flowers only but donations for "B.W.A." P.O. Box 415, Reading, RG1 4SF.

HARRISON - Tragically on January 26th, at Morriston Hospital, John Alli-y-Mynach, The Cwm St Dogmaels, Cardigan, Dyfed (late of Farnham, Surrey). Dearly loved husband of Mair, adored father of David and Sarah and son-in-law John and granddaddie *of* Nicola, Charlotte and Aidan. Funeral Wednesday 1st February. *Private* at the house. Public at St Cynwyl Church, Aberporth, at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if so desired to *MENCAP c/o The Manager*, Midland Bank, Cardigan.

JONES - Alan Brynmor (Bryn) on 23rd January, aged 51, in hospital after illness. Beloved husband of Ann and father of Martin. Deeply mourned by family, colleagues in the Inland Revenue and by his numerous friends. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium, Richmond, Surrey, Tuesday 31st January at 2 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired made payable to Haematology Trust Fund 4077, Ealing Hospital.

KAGAN - On January 22nd, peacefully in hospital (York), Reginald, aged 95 years, late Principal York Tech., dear husband of the late Edna, beloved father of Peter and Barbara. Loved and respected by family and friends. Funeral Service was private at his own request.

MacKAY - *Dr. Vonde, of* Pembroke Cottage, Walberswick, Suffolk. Previously General Practitioner in Welwyn Garden City. Dearly loved husband of Angela, adored father of Jane, Rona, Bruce, Helen and Rob, and beloved by his eleven grandchildren. Cremation will take place at Gorleston Crematorium on Thursday 2nd February at 11 am. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for the Southwold Branch of the R.N.L.I. c/o Woolnoughs Funeral Service, The Chapels, Holton Road, Halesworth, Suffolk.

MARSHALL - John, Artist, died peacefully at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on 21st January.

O'DWYER - Suddenly at *home at Redlynch on 26th* January 1995, Joan, dearly loved wife of the late Colonel Jack O'Dwyer, Royal Engineers. Funeral Service at Salisbury Crematorium on Wednesday 1st February at 1pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to R.S.P.C.A. c/o H.A. Harrold & Son, 77 Estcourt Road, Salisbury, SP1 3AX.

POWELL - Arthur Handley, *on January 26th, peacefully* at The Pines Nursing Home, Putney. Thanks to all those who cared for him. Service at Putney Vale Crematorium Friday February 3rd at 10am. Family flowers only. Donations to Alzheimer's *Disease*.

PURVIS - On 26th January 1995, peacefully at home at Clifton Hampden, in his 91st year, Dr. Victor Bremner *Purvis, beloved husband of* Joanna and father of Ian, Julia, Lucia and Christopher. Funeral at 2 pm on Saturday 4th February at St Michael and All Angels, Clifton Hampden. Flowers and enquiries to Edward Carter, 107 South Avenue, Abingdon (01235 528295).

RAWLINS - On January 26th 1995, suddenly, Elizabeth Joan (née Deime-Radcliffe) aged 85. Widow of John Walter and dearly loved mother of John, Peregrine and Julian. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Martin, nr. Fordingbridge, on Tuesday January 31st at 3pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Friends of the Elderly c/o John Shering, 34 Provost Street, *Fordingbridge* SP6 1AY.

REDSHAW - On 26th January, Professor Seymour Redshaw, peacefully at home, dearly beloved husband of Betty, father of David, John and Michael. Funeral at St Marys and St Chads Church, Brewood, on *February 2nd at 12 noon*. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincolns *Inn Fields, London* WC2A 3PX.

SCHOOLING - Nevil Edward, on 26th January 1995, at home in his 87th year. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral on *Friday February 3rd, St* John's Church, *Hove*, at 1pm.

TRAHERNE - Sir Cennydd George, KG, TD, MA, GCStJ, *HM* Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan from 1952 to 1985, peacefully and at home on 26th January 1995. Devoted husband of the late Lady Rowena, OBE, BA. He is deeply mourned by a large *family* and a wide circle of friends. Funeral at St Georges-super-Ely Church at noon Wednesday 1st February 1995 *for family*, tenants, estate staff and parishioners only. A Memorial Service at Llandaff Cathedral is to be arranged. Family flowers only. Donations to the Order of St John Priory for Wales, Priory House, Meridian Court, North Road, Cardiff, CF4 3BL.

WILLIAMS - On 26th January 1995, peacefully at Summerlands after a long illness, Elizabeth March Williams of Castel, Guernsey. Widow of *Geoffrey Williams*. Much loved mother to Susan and Anthony and "Granny Quee" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Service prior to cremation at Le Foulon Chapel Wednesday 1st February at *3.30 pm. Family flowers* only. Donations to Age Concern, Astral House, 1268 London Road, SW16 4ER.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

RICKARDS - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Jo Rickards (*née Raffles Ruxton Roberts*) will be held on Monday 13th February at 12 noon at St James's Church, Piccadilly.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HACKETT - Cliff. 29th January 1985. Most lovingly remembered this day and every day. Joanne & Adam.

PALLANT - Christopher. Especially tomorrow his 40th birthday. So many *happy memories*. His ever loving family.

TSCHIFFELY - Violet, beloved wife of Aimé. Fondly remembered on her birthday.

BIRTHDAYS

ASHLEY Carter. 29th January. Happy birthday. 30 not out. With lots & lots of love from Margaret, Miles & the boys.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

AUPAIR nach München gesucht. Als aufgeschlossene Familie, die gern viel reist, suchen wir zum 01.03.1995 ein Aupair-Mädchen, das bereits Deutschkenntnisse hat, Auto fahren kann und sich gern mit Kindern im Alter von 9-12 Jahren beschäftigt. Bitte senden Sie Ihre Bewerbungen mit Lichtbild an: Helmut Freiherr von Pirch, Friedrich-Zahn-Str. 18a, D-80999 München.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Galaxy Cars & Couriers Limited (In Administrative Receivership) Notice is hereby given that we, Ladislav Horman and Frank Stansil of Hacker Young & Partners, St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above-named company on 24/1/1995 by National Westminster Bank Plc under the powers contained in a debenture dated 9/5/1989 whereby fixed and floating charges created over all the assets of the company. Assets of the Company of which the person appointed is not made receiver: None.
Ladislav Horman, Joint Administrative Receiver 25/1/1995.

No. 00359 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF NOVO GROUP PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 20th January 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the amount standing to the credit of the share premium account of the above-named Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 8th day of February 1995.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of the share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 26th day of January 1995.
Simpson Curtis
Wren House
16 Carter Lane
London EC4V 5EY
Tel: 071 329 3866
Fax: 071 329 3210
Ref: [illegible]
Solicitors for the above-named Company

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Royal Naval Reserve (V) Benevolent Fund
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this Charity. Copies can be obtained from them at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL. (Ref: VFC-266380-A/2-BC)

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986, In the High Court. No 8929 of 1994 In Bankruptcy. Re: Rodney Frederick Bishop. I Alan Redvers Price of [illegible] & Partners, Holborn House, 153 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BJ Hereby Give Notice that I have been appointed and certificated by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry as Trustee in the above matter. All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the Estate must deliver them to me, and all debts due to the Estate must be paid to me. Creditors who have not proved their debts must forward their Proof of Debt to me.
A R Price, Trustee.

NO 82 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF KODE INTERNATIONAL PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 9th January 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the issued share capital of the above-named Company from £3,150,000 to £1,268,302.50 and the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company by £5,262,842.38.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 8th day of February 1995.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital and share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 4th day of January 1995
Theodore Goddard
150 Aldersgate Street
London EC1A 4EJ
Solicitors for the above named Company.
Ref: 276/[illegible]

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TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE ACT, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

DAVID, MARY SIMON of 1A FAIRLEIGH ROAD, LONDON N16 died on 5TH FEBRUARY 1994 particulars to THE GRANGEWOODS PARTNERSHIP Solicitors of 1 HARLEY STREET, LONDON W1A 4DD [illegible] before 29TH MARCH 1995.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND BENEFICIARIES TO SEND IN CLAIMS UNDER TRUSTEE ACT 1925 SECTION 27

Re DAVID CRAIGEN Deceased
PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 NOTICE is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of David Craigen late of [illegible] Lucca Italy who died on the 22nd day of January 1994 and letters of administration to whose estate with a will annexed were granted on the 17th day of January 1995 out of the Principal Registry of the Family Division to [illegible] are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned solicitors on or before 30th day of March 1995 after which date the said administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them having regard only to the claims of which he then has had notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons whose claims or demands he then has not had notice.
DATED the 23rd day of January 1995
Messrs Palmer Cowen
16 Berkeley Street
London W1X 5AE
Ref: AM/C22801
Solicitors for the Administrator

WILLIAM ALBERT THORNTON DECEASED. Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, NOTICE is given that anyone having a claim against or an interest in the estate of the above named late of 5 Buckingham Avenue Scunthorpe who died on the 30th August 1994 is required to send particulars thereof to the solicitors before the 31st March 1995 after which date the Executor will distribute the estate having regard only to valid claims or interests notified. Dated 18th January 1995. R.A.C. SYMES & CO 110a HIGH STREET, SCUNTHORPE, S HUMBERSIDE DN15 6HF. REF DVJ/BAC.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OBITUARIES

EDWARD SHILS

Edward Shils, sociologist and publicist, died in Chicago on January 23 aged 84. He was born in Philadelphia on July 1, 1910.

EDWARD SHILS was a highly distinguished sociologist who, with J. U. Nef, founded the Committee on Social Thought in Chicago University. He was prominent in the affairs of *Encounter* and of its backer, the Congress for Cultural Freedom. In the last twenty years he came increasingly to be admired by, and to be protective of, such embattled academic conservatives as have managed to keep their heads above the radical flood in American universities.

Shils's father — a Russian immigrant — was a worker in a cigar factory; it was his mother, also Russian, who equipped Shils with intellectual interests. Shils attended high school in Philadelphia and took a BA at the University of Pennsylvania in 1931. The Depression then seems to have taken its toll. He did not take a higher degree but instead became a social worker under Louis Wirth and had moved only slowly into the Chicago faculty by the start of the Second World War.

At Chicago Shils was much influenced by Talcott Parsons, with whom he later collaborated in *Toward A General Theory of Action* (1952). During the Second World War he worked on German morale both for the British Army and for the Office of Strategic Services, establishing to his own satisfaction that it was not Nazi ideology but solidarity with the primary group which sustained the courage and obedience of the German soldier.

In the immediate postwar period Shils taught for a time at the London School of Economics, of which he later became an honorary fellow and, after three years as associate professor at Chicago, became a professor in the Committee on Social Thought which in the course of time was to become an immensely prestigious institution.

During nearly half a century as a Chicago professor (his last classes — on Thomas Hobbes — ended less than six months ago), Shils's influence was against low-level empirical sociology and in favour of an intellectually reputable sociology which was concerned with relations between thought, power, education and the socio-political structure.

During the last thirty or so years, in addition to performing his duties in Chicago, Shils was often to be found at Cambridge University where, after nine years as a fellow of King's College, 1961-70, he spent the rest of his life as a fellow (later an honorary fellow) of Peterhouse. At Peterhouse, Shils did scarcely any teaching. But he lived for a number of months every year next door to the college, was a member of the college's governing body and took a close interest in the negotiations which led to the foundation of Cambridge's Social and Political Science Tripos.

He may have hoped to be offered Cambridge's first Chair of Sociology: it is certain that he wished Cambridge sociology to be both culturally and intellectually demanding as well as being historical and philosophical in substance. Along with his allies he was defeated, was then cold-shouldered by those who ran the new Tripos — of whose policy he understandably took a very dim view.

In Peterhouse, Shils was a generous benefactor — to the college library and in providing endowment for the Dacre lectures. In spite of being too flattering of Lord Dacre for some SCR tastes, he was liked by almost all the fellows for almost all of the time he was there; he gave notable encouragement and help to some of the earlier works of David Watkin, Roger Scruton and Edward Norman (all at times fellows of the college) even though none of them really shared his opinions.

In the 1930s Shils was a New Dealer but by the early 1950s, like many American intellectuals and many Jewish Americans, he had become primarily an anti-Marxist, for whom Marxism was a replica of Nazism. In *The Torment of Secrecy* (1956) he conceptualised pluralism not only against both sorts of totalitarianism but also as a defence of American norms against McCarthyism.

Shils's output was extensive. But, in general, he was better at translating, introducing and composing long articles than he was at writing books. Apart from the two titles already mentioned and *The Intellectual Between Tradition and Modernity* (1961) and *The Tradition* (1981), his most impressive work was contained in three volumes of *Collected Papers on Sociology* (1972, 1975 and 1980). At times Shils's prose was turgid and theoretical. At its best it was weighty and measured, registering interests which were literary, historical, political and ideological and easily transcending the low-level sociology which threatened to subvert his own type of sociology.

Shils read very widely in English, French and German and to some extent Italian (though, oddly enough, not in Russian). He knew a quite extraordinary number of intellectuals and academics of all political persuasions. He had a conception of himself as an essentially international scholar which mirrored the emergence of the United States as a world power: and he was treated as an equal by psychologists, psychoanalysts and atomic scientists as well as by historians and sociologists. He was a co-founder of *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. *Minerva*, the magazine that he edited and founded for many years dealt with science and higher education policy. *The Intellectual Between Tradition and Modernity* was written after a decade of careful scrutiny of the Indian intelligentsia of the 1960s. His membership of the editorial board of *Encounter*, amid all the storms in which he was an eirenic influence, involved a distinctly practical, and for a time CIA-supported, contribution to the Cold War.

Shils's interest in universities, public education, ideologies, intelligentsias and social cohesion slid easily into an interest in religion which began early as an interest in religious as well as political sects, and was expanded in so far as he was able to expand it in the absence of religious belief of his own.

Shils was a non-believing, non-practising Jew who was proud of his knowledge of Yiddish and enlivened an exclusively cultural Judaism with a stock of knock-about and amiably retailed Jewish stories which few Gentiles would now feel able to retail. He described himself on occasion as having "a general Feuerbachian piety", though he also described himself on other occasions as an admirer of Santayana. The outcome was an informal, undogmatic, morally respectable, secular, liberal conservatism which respected religion as a form of ideology and took a humorous and resigned attitude towards death once death became a possibility.

Shils was married twice and was divorced twice. He is survived by his second wife, Irene Coltman, the historian of thought, and by their son Adam who was at school in England and now teaches in the United States.

FATHER DEREK JENNINGS

The Rev Derek Jennings, former chaplain to Roman Catholic students at King's College London, died from lymphatic leukaemia on January 23 aged 48. He was born on November 19, 1946.

THE death of Father Derek Jennings deprives London's religious life of one of its most eccentric comets. He died in an Anglican clergy house in Ealing with his friend Cardinal Hume praying at his bedside. His forceful conversation and acerbic intelligence won him a range of acquaintances remarkable for a young civil servant who had resigned at 38 to take Holy Orders. He had yet to achieve his first parish.

Graced with the nickname of "Dazzle", Jennings was ubiquitous. He would turn up at country house dinners, theatre festivals, auction houses and modest student gatherings, always yearning to argue the toss, always with an admonitory finger at the ready, always loyal.

Derek Jennings was educated at Stowe School and King's College London. He converted to Roman Catholicism when a student and then took a first in history at York University. He entered the Civil Service, spending most of his career within the orbit of the Department of the Environment. His most enjoyable term was as secretary to the department's Historic Buildings Council (predecessor to English Heritage) in 1977-81, during its most creative period under Dame Jennifer Jenkins.

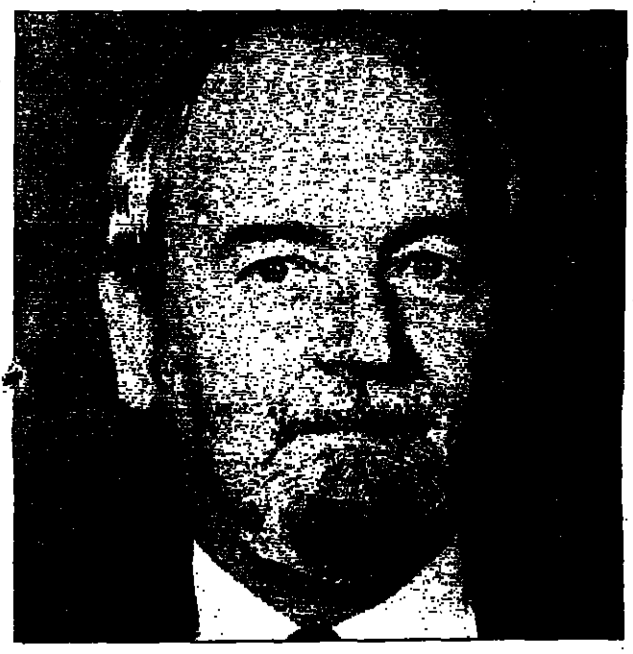
His readiness to rewrite the bureaucratic rule-book was a perfect foil for her constant extension of the council's remit. He became a forceful presence alongside his chairman in many of England's grandest houses as their owners pleaded for help with restoration. In this work Jennings developed a love of English architecture and landscape. None of his subsequent Whitehall assignments could match the satisfaction he got from this role.

In 1984 he resigned from the Civil Service and began to train for the Catholic priesthood. His three years at the English College in Rome proved a difficult initiation that sorely tested his vocation. It survived and he returned to London, serving first in a poor area of Camden Town and then at Our Lady of Grace and St Edward, Chiswick.

From this he progressed to the Catholic Chaplaincy at London University. His encounters with students were a different pastoral challenge. He found them as stimulating as he often found the faculty members infuriating. Jennings would leave no assumption unquestioned, no aspect of Catholic theology undiscussed — even with the most determined sceptic.

To his friends it was often curious that a man who had found the dogmas of Whitehall so debilitating should now find those of Rome a constant source of revelation and, ultimately, of comfort. His most remarkable intellectual gift was to share the certainties of that revelation with people from the most diverse walks of life. His illness forced him to give up his work in the autumn. He sustained his friendships to the end, sparking and glittering even when resigned to his death.

JOHN WEAKLEY



John Weakley, acting president of the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union, died on January 23 aged 54. He was born in Swansea on March 20, 1940.

UNTIL his unexpected death earlier this week John Weakley seemed set to overcome the failures of previous years and become president of the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union, one of the most important posts in the Labour movement.

He had been acting president following the departure of a fellow moderate, Bill Jordan, to the general secretaryship of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and was poised to win the nomination of the union's dominant right-wing machine for the presidency.

John Weakley began his working life as an apprentice toolmaker in Bristol in 1957. He became a shop steward in the aerospace industry and made his way through the ranks of the engineering union's lay structure before springing to public prominence with a High Court action in the mid-1970s against the then AEU's left-wing president Hugh Scanlon.

Scanlon, now a Labour life peer, was using his casting vote to commit the union to opposition to the Labour Government's pay restraint policy. The High Court ruled in Weakley's favour and this was the first successful challenge to left-wing rule of the union.

The success secured Weakley's position in the right-wing machine despite the fact that he came from outside the traditional heartland of engineering moderation, the West Midlands. He was elected a district secretary in South Wales in 1977 and was briefly a divisional organiser before winning a seat on the ruling executive council in 1979, representing workers in South Wales and the South West of England.

He was given key negotiating functions with British Aerospace, GEC and British Steel. He was regarded as a tough, professional negotiator but he failed to win the right-wing machine's nomination for the presidency after the death of Terry Duffy, losing to Bill Jordan who took over the leadership in 1986.

Weakley was certainly the best known and most experienced of likely contenders for the presidency this time round, but his nomination was not a foregone conclusion. He would undoubtedly have faced opposition once again from the Midlands, but industry observers thought he would just make it. He was the longest serving member of the AEEU executive council and his union's most senior member of the TUC general council.

A devout Roman Catholic, John Weakley leaves a widow, Margaret. There were no children.

GEOFFREY PARSONS

Geoffrey Parsons, OBE, concert accompanist, died from cancer on January 26 aged 65. He was born in Sydney on June 15, 1929.

AFTER the retirement of Gerald Moore in February 1967, Geoffrey Parsons quietly assumed his mantle as the leading accompanist in Britain. His playing was perhaps a little less flamboyant than Moore's, but no one doubted its responsiveness, its subtle authority and quiet strength. He worked with almost all of the world's leading singers, putting them at ease on and off the stage.

He was sensitive about the low regard in which accompanists tend to be held, and when asked about his profession he preferred to call himself a concert pianist. But when Parsons accompanied another musician, the result was often more like a partnership of equals.

Parsons accompanied Victoria de los Angeles, Elisabeth Söderström, Nicolai Gedda, Hans Hotter and Dame Janet Baker, and more recently Jessye Norman, Felicity Lott, Thomas Hampson and Olaf Baer. He brought new standards of excellence to lieder recitals and, after discovering that many of his singers had only ever studied volumes one and two of the Peters edition of Schubert's songs, encouraged them to look at the other five books. Thus he brought to concert audiences a substantially wider repertoire. He also accompanied instrumentalists such as the cellist Paul Tortelier and the violinist Ida Haendel, but his forte was accompanying singers.

Geoffrey Penwill Parsons was born in Sydney and educated there at Canterbury High School — also the alma mater of William Lyne, who later became the director of the Wigmore Hall. He studied at the Sydney Conservatoire and settled in England in 1950.

Shortly after arriving in Britain he had his big break accompanying the elderly bass-baritone Peter Dawson. During the 1950s he studied in Germany with the baritone Gerhard Hüsch. His first Royal Festival Hall recital was with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf in 1961, following which he became her principal accompanist.

In 1976 he made a recording of Percy Grainger's music for two pianos with his friend Leslie Howard (he recently worked again with Howard on the Hyperion Records Liszt collection). When the Barbican Concert Hall opened in 1982, Parsons was invited to put together an international song recital series, *Geoffrey Parsons and Friends*. It was in this type of intelligent "designer" programme, featuring the works of just two or three composers or poets, that he truly excelled.

Many singers beat a path to his Hampstead home to hear his views on their programme choices and repertoire. He was always constructive in his criticism, and many left thinking that subtle changes in interpretation or repertoire were their own ideas, while in truth they had been those of the egoless Parsons. Numerous musical honours came his way, and he was appointed OBE in 1977.

Parsons cared little for his posthumous reputation and when his basement flooded some years back he simply threw away all his sodden old concert programmes. Thus there remains no detailed chronology of his life's work.

He was struck down with a swift and brutal form of cancer last month. But quantities of wine, champagne and chocolates were sent by well-wishers, and when visitors arrived at his hospital bedside they were greeted with enthusiastic cries of: "Get another bottle out."

Parsons was a committed Anglican, a benefactor of both St Albans Abbey and St Cyprian's, Clarence Gate, where he worshipped regularly and endowed a stained-glass window.

His partner, the singing teacher Erich Vietheer, predeceased him in 1989, and he is survived by two brothers in Australia.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE TIMES
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All messages with gift must be received no later than Wednesday 8th February 1995. We reserve the right to omit an advertisement at our discretion.

ON THIS DAY

January 28 1927

* * *

Today there is talk of the "communications revolution", but more than 60 years ago attempts were being made to send pictures across the world by wireless.

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HOPES OF REGULAR SERVICE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, JAN. 27.

The results of the first Transatlantic experiments in the transmission of pictures and writing in facsimile by the Telefunken-Karolus-Siemens wireless system have now become available in Europe. It was known from the messages of acknowledgement received from Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires that, in spite of atmospheric difficulties, the images had been received there with encouraging clearness. But, as the experiments were made in one direction only, from Germany to South America, it was necessary to await the arrival by mail of the facsimiles as received in order to appreciate the success of the first attempts.

Certified facsimiles have now arrived from Rio. For the experiment the most suitable subjects, mainly newspaper advertisements, were chosen. Although most of the facsimiles are rather plainly marked with the vertical lines characteristic of facsimiles received under experimental conditions and some show slight distortions, the pictures are on the whole remarkably clear, and print and script have passed the essential test of legibility. The Telefunken Gesellschaft is fully satisfied with the results of this 6,000-mile transmission from the Nauen wireless station to Rio; in view of the atmospheric disturbances there was some doubt whether the images would get through at all.

For long distances short wave-lengths are used. Transmission to Rio was begun on a wave-length of 40 metres, but owing to atmospheric disturbances a change was made to 25 metres. The time taken was from five to ten minutes, compared, it is stated, with 1½ hours required by other systems which have been tried over long distances. Messages in ordinary hand-writing were transmitted as well as pictures and advertisements, but copies are not yet ready for reproduction. I have, however, seen the facsimiles, which have just arrived by mail, certified by the German Embassy in Rio. One or two words are somewhat blurred, but the messages can be read, and in one of them every word is absolutely clear.

In view of the success of these first experiments it is hoped to open a regular experimental service between Germany and Brazil in both directions, perhaps by May.

Attention is now being concentrated on overcoming such difficulties as have been encountered in the long-distance experiments. Short-distance transmission in Europe, between, for instance, Berlin and Leipzig or Vienna, as described and illustrated in *The Times* of January 21, is regarded as almost past the experimental stage. The facsimile of a Chinese print, as recently received in Vienna from Berlin, shows how much progress has been made in eliminating roughnesses in short-distance transmission and promises well for the public service which the German and Austrian postal departments propose to open shortly. The average rate of transmission between Berlin and Vienna on the 1,300 metre wave-length is 30 seconds.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY JANUARY 28 1995

NEWS

Poll tax jailing 'illegal'

■ An unemployed man was wrongfully sent to prison for failing to pay his poll tax, according to the European Commission of Human Rights.

In a test case that could cost the Government millions of pounds, the commission ruled that he should be be paid compensation and that legal aid must in future be granted to anyone accused of failing to pay tax.......Page 1

Flood alerts and more snow

■ Flood alerts were issued on rivers in the southwest of England and Wales as travellers in the North braced themselves for further heavy snowfalls following the blizzards earlier this week in which at least six people died.......Page 1

Cantona suspended

Eric Cantona was suspended by Manchester United for the rest of the football season following his assault on a fan.......Page 1

Major 'sets pace'

John Major insisted that he was setting the pace on Britain's European policy as he sought to head off a new rift.......Page 1

Barbara Castle's love

Love letters written by Barbara Castle in the 1930s to a married journalist, are to be revealed on television.......Page 3

Propert warning

Homeowners should not look on their houses as investments or rely on rising prices to revive the "feel-good factor", the Heritage Secretary said.......Page 4

Fire killer jailed

A man was jailed for nine years for killing two young women in a fire he started after they complained about noise.......Page 5

Smacking attack

A UN committee attacked Britain for defending the right of parents to smack their offspring.......Page 6

Bomb sentence

An IRA bomber was jailed for 25 years for causing the Shankill Road fish shop explosion which left nine people dead.......Page 7

Ratty doomed

The water vole, on which the stoical Ratty in *The Wind in the Willows* was modelled, is facing extinction.......Page 10

Auschwitz ceremony

Thirteen Presidents, three kings and a cluster of Nobel laureates marked the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.......Page 13

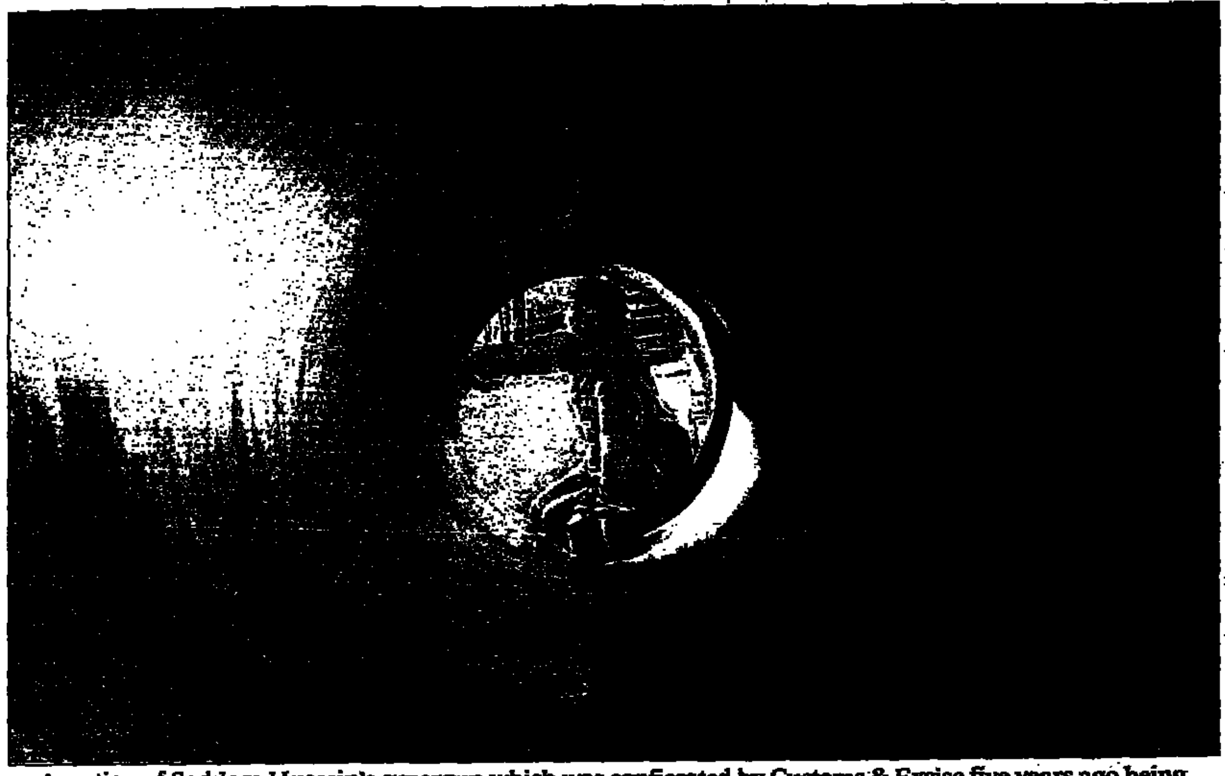
Gingrich backed

The House of Representatives backed Newt Gingrich's call for a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced federal budget by 2000.......Page 14

Avoiding the popular lottery numbers

■ For those determined to find a pattern in the National Lottery there is at least one certainty — if you choose popular numbers such as seven, you increase your chances of having to share the prize. And many will no doubt concentrate on the numbers which have not come up: 1,8,18,19,24,33,34,41,45.......Page 1

SIMON WALKER



A section of Saddam Hussein's supergun which was confiscated by Customs & Excise five years ago being cleaned before going on show at the Royal Armouries museum at Fort Nelson, near Portsmouth. Diary, page 20

OPINION

An inspector calls: Christopher Woodhead has brought some much-needed realism to the debate on educational reform.......Page 21

To sell the lottery: *The presentation of the lottery on television, it should be admitted, has been highly unsatisfactory*.......Page 21

The spirit of doing it: Once invented the virtues of DIY can never be lost — or not until hell freezes over, paint *stops drying and every shelf in the land will hold its spirit-level with pride*.......Page 21

LETTERS

Remembering the Holocaust: electronic organs; research and bureaucracy; the Cantona affair.......Page 21

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: No tosh is so wondrous as the tosh that surrounds the inanities of football. Every paper yesterday rushed to explain the Great Incident.......Page 20

Benedict Nightingale: Whether or not John Osborne is actually turning in his grave, be sure he is not lying back and peacefully smoking a Turkish cigarette. This has been a troubled week for his reputation.......Page 20

THE PAPERS

To ignore the history of Auschwitz is to ensure that a new chapter will be written

USA Today

The common responsibility of mankind is never to forget what happened at Auschwitz or why *Los Angeles Times*

Kingfisher: The retailer that owns Woolworths ousted its chief executive and its finance director in a dramatic boardroom shake-up.......Page 25

Power: The Treasury has had to delay for one week its sell off details for National Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators.......Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 14.9 to 3022.2. Sterling fell to 80.0 after falling from $1.5935 to $1.5920 and DM2.4105 to DM2.4063.......Page 28

OBITUARIES

Edward Shils, sociologist; **The Rev Derek Jennings**, chaplain to Roman Catholic students at King's College London; **Geoffrey Parsons**, accompanist.......Page 23

Golf: Nick Price produced a round more in keeping with his status to take a one-stroke lead in the Johnnie Walker Classic in Manila.......Page 47

Rugby league: The final of the Regal Trophy between Wigan and Warrington brings together the two most successful clubs in the competition's history.......Page 46

Tennis: Andre Agassi defeated Aaron Krickstein to set up a "dream final" against Pete Sampras.......Page 44

Motoring marvels: The 12 cars that put the great in Britain.......Page 1

Fast women: Drivers who can make male passengers nervous.......Page 5

VISION

Red Queen: Peter Riddell on love, politics and Barbara Castle.......Page 3

Doctors on the go: Libby Purves on ER, the high-speed hospital hit.......Page 5

Glitty secrets: the private life of Coco Chanel.......Page 6

WEEKEND

Homework: *Confessions of a* DIY addict.......Pages 1, 3

Garden debate: Should the RHS move the Lindley Library to Wisley?.......Page 10

Musical break: CDs of the Amadeus Quartet at special prices.......Page 12

Get away: Weekend break in Barcelona for 20p.......Page 13

Safe as houses: Why a structural survey can save home buyers' time and money.......Page 17

Out and about: Farmer's Diary with Paul Heiney, plus Derwent May's Feather Report.......Page 19

Travel: *Golden days in glorious Goa: plus the pick of bargain breaks*.......Pages 20-25

WEEKEND ARTS

Windsor warmth: Terry Hands's new production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for the National Theatre is both warm and superbly well observed.......Page 5

Coll wobbles: Does the Arts Council's report on opera in London spell the end of English National Opera's large-scale activities?.......Page 5

Fellini remembered: Rome is celebrating what would have been Federico Fellini's 75th birthday with a major exhibition devoted to the film-maker's life and work.......Page 5

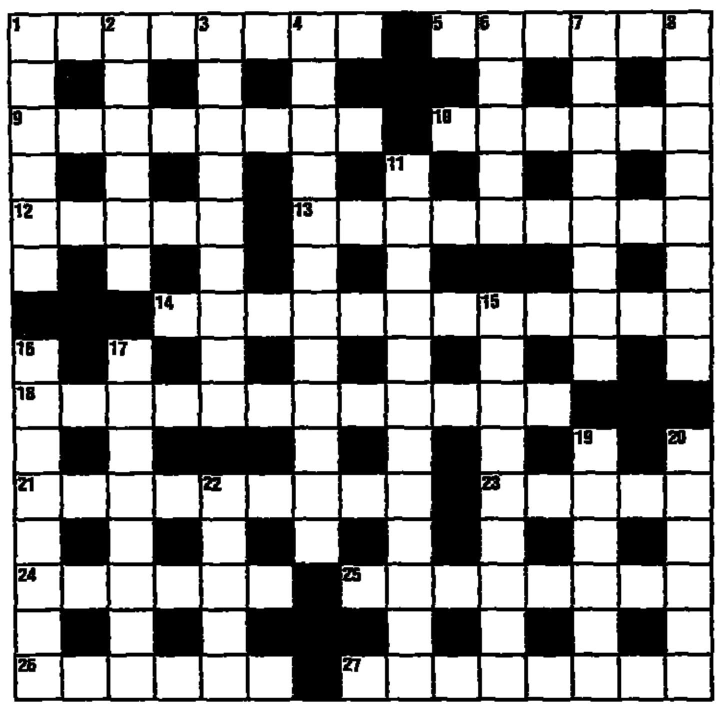
New on CD: Collected archive recordings by the virtuoso pianist Vladimir Horowitz; opera; Charlie Parker: new pop albums.......Page 7

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,764

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Edges given second colouring (8)
5 With flight over, engineers are about to knock off (6)
9 *Prison officer's uniform?* (8)
10 Pound invested in Hungarian money nearly 90% *devalued* (6)
12 Water hole is round in its existing state (5)
13 Taking place while town is under control (2,1,6)
14 Inebriate, too on edge, has become abnormal. (2,2,4,4)
18 Film star must be informed (2,3,7)
21 Asian god has a burial place *concealed near Indian capital* (9)
23 At last he gets what's left of them (5)
24 Cloth wrapped round the right implement (6)
25 Monotonous sort of concert...(8)
26 ...despite connecting thread (6)
27 *Skirt round one state that's hostile* (8)

DOWN

1 American furniture uses lots of wood — beech or yew, originally (6)
2 Study carefully exercise 15 (6)
3 Bird makes different sound (9)
4 I could be monopolistic if I were a man of the world (12)
6 Keyhole, say (5)
7 Govern if criminal is pardoned (8)
8 *Dissident novelist covers up* information (8)
11 *Having insufficient food, without* money. I'm in a rut, not unexpect*edly* (12)
15 Plan courses on jewellery (9)
16 Speed of spring flowing in watercourse (8)
17 Keep an eye on bridge player's conventional bid (5,3)
19 Protagonist in charge of epic (6)
20 Saving *Maud drowning* in the river (6)
22 *Kid under the influence, we hear* (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,758

P	A	S	T	A		F	O	R	B	I	D	D	E	N
A		A		L		R		E		N		I		A
R	O	Y	A	L	R	O	A	D		S	U	S	H	I
A		S		E		S		C		P		H		A
G	E	O	R	G	E	T	H	E	S	E	C	O	N	D
R				R		S		D		C		N		
A	N	C	H	O	R		M	A	S	T	H	E	A	D
P		H				H		R				S		O
H	E	A	T	H	R	O	W		V	I	C	T	I	M
		M		O		M		S		N				I
P	O	P	S	T	H	E	Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N
A		L		F		S		I		T		L		A
C	R	E	D	O		P	A	T	R	I	C	I	A	N
K		V		O		U		O		L		A		C
S	W	E	E	T	E	N	E	R		L	O	D	G	E

Solution to Puzzle No 19,763

C	A	T	B	U	R	G	L	A	R		A	B	E	D
O		A		N		Y		M				L		I
L	A	N	I	F	E	R	O	U	S		F	I	R	M
E		G		A		A		S		C		N		I
	T	E	N	T		T	H	E	W	A	R	D	E	N
S		L		H		I		D		M		E		I
P	R	O	F	O	U	N	D		S	P	A	R	K	S
O				M		G		T		F				H
I	S	A	I	A	H		A	R	R	O	G	A	T	E
L		B		B		L		I		L		V		D
S	H	E	L	L	H	E	A	P		L	I	E	D	
P		T		E		T		L		O		S		A
O	A	T	H		S	H	E	A	R	W	A	T	E	R
R		E				A		N		E		A		M
T	O	R	T		B	L	U	E	P	R	I	N	T	S

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *B K Brittney, Cobham, Kent; W R Islip, Sandy, Beds; C McNeir, Selly Oak, Birmingham; H Cullingford, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex; P S Raderecht, Chippenham, Wilts.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.46 am
Sun sets: 4.42 pm
Moon sets 2.14 pm
Moon rises 5.25 am

New Moon January 30

London 4.42 pm to 7.44 am
Bristol 4.52 pm to 7.54 am
Edinburgh 4.37 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.43 pm to 8.00 am
Penzance 5.08 pm to 8.01 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.44 am
Sun sets: 4.44 pm
Moon sets 3.27 pm
Moon rises 6.14 am

New Moon Tomorrow

London 4.44 pm to 7.43 am
Bristol 4.54 pm to 7.52 am
Edinburgh 4.39 pm to 8.12 am
Manchester 4.45 pm to 7.58 am
Penzance 5.10 pm to 8.00 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.17	6.47	11.50	6.64
Aberdeen	10.52	4.02	11.33	4.12
Avonmouth	4.26	11.43	5.02	11.84
Belfast	8.35	3.27	9.04	3.35
Cardiff	4.28	10.46	4.59	10.75
Devonport	3.02	4.85	3.38	4.86
Dover	8.28	6.00	9.03	6.08
Dublin	9.10	3.96	9.45	4.01
Falmouth	2.29	4.58	3.04	4.70
Glasgow	10.27	4.25	10.40	4.35
Harwich	9.09	3.58	9.45	3.59
Holyhead	7.54	5.14	8.29	5.17
Hull	3.33	6.71	4.08	6.77
Ilfracombe	3.21	8.26	3.52	8.45
King's Lynn	3.39	6.02	4.07	6.27
Leith	11.59	5.02	-	-
Liverpool	9.42	8.66	10.17	8.66
Lowestoft	6.50	2.30	7.17	2.32
Margate	9.29	4.23	10.04	4.35
Milford Haven	3.42	6.04	4.13	6.20
Newquay	2.36	6.02	3.08	5.21
Oban	3.42	3.52	4.08	3.50
Penzance	2.06	4.86	2.39	4.96
Portland	4.03	1.72	4.36	1.65
Portsmouth	8.44	4.47	9.26	4.44
Shoreham	8.49	5.62	9.25	5.65
Southampton	8.16	4.26	8.54	4.15
Swansea	3.42	8.30	4.14	8.49
Tees	1.01	4.68	1.31	4.78
W'ton-on-Nze	9.18	3.79	9.49	3.86

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: London, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, N Highland, -1C (30F); highest rainfall: Buxton, Derbyshire, 2.24in; highest sunshine: Belfast, 7.3hrs.

FORECAST

☐ **General situation:** blustery showers in southern Scotland, with the north starting overcast with sleet or snow, becoming lighter later. Orkney and Shetland bright with occasional wintry showers. Northern Ireland, England and Wales bright with sunny intervals and squally showers. Heaviest and most frequent in the west.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands:** bright or sunny periods. Blustery showers, some heavy. Becoming cloudier and wet later. Winds SW fresh or strong. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **E England, W Midlands, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** bright or sunny periods. Isolated showers. Lying snow thawing. Winds SW fresh. Max 6C (43F).

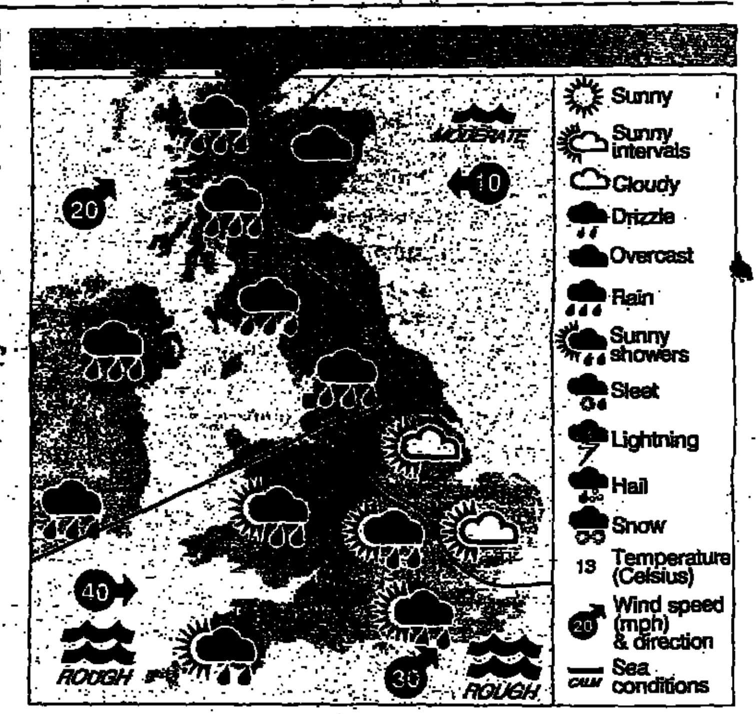
☐ **N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** bright or sunny intervals and frequent showers, some heavy, with sleet or snow and hail, perhaps thunder. Wind SW moderate or fresh. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England; S Wales:** bright or sunny intervals and frequent squally showers, with hail and perhaps thunder. Clouding over later. Wind SW fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney:** overcast with rain, sleet or snow, becoming lighter. Turning showery later. Winds NE moderate or fresh. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Shetland:** bright or sunny intervals and isolated wintry showers. Winds NE moderate. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **OUTLOOK:** cloudy and wet on Sunday with sleet or snow in north, clearing south and east in afternoon. Monday settled with sunny periods.



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

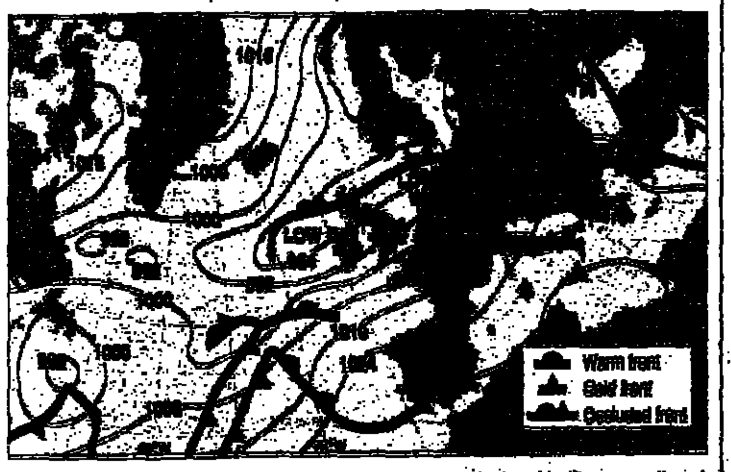
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.0	0.10	2	36	sn	Leuchars	6.1	0.09	4	39	s
Anglesey	3.4	0.11	5	41	h	Littlehmptn	1.4	0.52	7	45	r
Aspatria	5.9	0.08	3	37	s	Liverpool	3.6	0.65	4	39	sl
Aviemore	4.1	0.01	1	34	s	London	0.1	0.34	5	41	r
Belfast	7.3	-	6	43	s	Lowestoft	-	0.51	7	45	b
Birmingham	1.0	0.50	3	37	sl	Manchester	3.1	0.98	5	41	sl
Bognor R	2.0	0.50	6	43	c	Minehead	1.5	0.22	7	45	b
Bournem'th	0.3	0.45	8	46	sh	Morecambe	4.3	0.44	4	39	b
Bristol	0.5	0.20	6	43	r	Newcastle	3.7	0.56	4	39	h
Buxton	0.8	2.24	1	34	c	Newquay	2.2	0.12	7	45	c
Cardiff	2.3	0.18	7	45	b	Norwich	0.2	0.50	5	41	r
Clacton	-	0.66	7	45	r	Nottingham	2.1	0.83	3	37	sn
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	0.5	0.23	4	39	sl
Colwyn Bay	2.3	0.48	5	41	b	Penzance	3.8	0.19	8	46	h
Cromer	0.1	0.27	5	41	sh	Plymouth	5.5	0.15	8	46	sh
Doncaster	3.2	0.94	3	37	sl	Poole	1.2	0.36	7	45	b
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.65	5	41	s
Eastbourne	X					Ross-o-wye	1.4	0.26	5	41	r
Edinburgh	5.9	0.29	4	39	s	Sandown	0.8	0.57	6	43	d
Eskdalemuir	5.6	0.19	1	34	sn	Saunton Snd	1.1	0.20	7	45	b
Exmouth	5.4	0.17	7	45	h	Scarboro'	2.8	0.60	5	41	h
Falmouth	X	0.16	7	45	b	Scilly Isles	4.8	0.09	8	46	s
Fishguard	0.9	0.42	5	41	sl	Shanklin	0.1	0.51	6	43	c
Folkestone	0.5	1.19	9	48	r	Shrewsbury	2.2	0.47	4	39	sn
Glasgow	7.2	0.01	4	39	s	Skegness	0.7	0.52	5	41	h
Guernsey	3.3	0.41	9	48	c	Southsea	1.0	0.52	7	45	r
Hastings	0.3	0.71	7	45	r	Stornoway	3.9	0.07	2	36	h
Hayling I.	1.2	0.48	5	41	r	Swanage	2.6	0.56	7	45	b
Herne Bay	-	0.50	7	45	r	Teignmouth	6.9	0.18	8	46	s
Hove	0.1	0.15	11	52	d	Tenby	3.4	0.13	7	45	c
Hunstanton	0.5	0.61	7	45	c	Tiree	5.5	-	4	39	h
Isle of Man	5.7	0.13	5	41	s	Torquay	5.9	0.14	8	46	s
Jersey	2.1	0.70	8	46	sh	Tynemouth	3.0	0.36	4	39	c
Kinloss	1.4	0.09	2	36	sh	Ventnor	0.5	0.42	5	41	sh
Leeds	3.1	0.67	3	37	sn	Weymouth	2.4	0.34	8	46	b
Lerwick	1.7	0.04	2	36	sn						

These are Thursday's figures

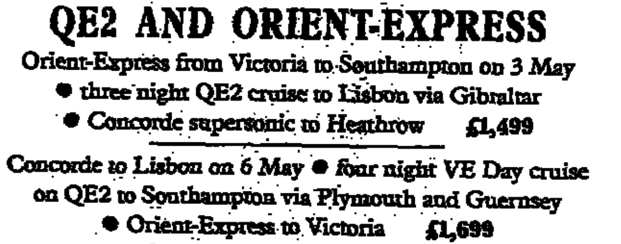
ABROAD

Ajaccio	12	54	c	C'phagn	2	36	s	Majorca	16	61	s	Rome	14	57	f
Akrotiri	17	63	f	Corfu	16	61	f	Malaga	20	68	s	Salzburg	0	32	sn
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	3	37	r	Malta	16	61	f	S F'risco	11	52	f
Algiers	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	7	45	f	Melb'rne	23	73	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Amst'dm	4	39	f	Faro	16	61	c	Mexico C	18	64	s	S Paulo	31	88	c
Athens	17	63	s	Florence	13	55	s	Miami	20	68	s	Seoul	1	34	sn
Bahrain	18	64	s	Frankfurt	3	37	f	Milan	11	52	s	Sing'por	29	84	r
Bangkok	32	90	f	Geneva	5	41	s	Montreal	-9	16	s	St'kholm	-7	19	s
Barbados	25	77	f	Gibraltar	18	64	f	Moscow	-1	30	r	Strasb'rg	5	41	f
Barcelona	13	55	s	Helsinki	0	32	c	Munich	1	34	c	Sydney	22	72	f
Beirut	18	64	f	Hong K	12	54	d	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tangier	16	61	f
Belgrade	0	32	sn	Innsbrck	1	34	sn	Naples	14	57	f	Tel Aviv	17	63	s
Berlin	4	39	c	Istanbul	15	59	s	N Delhi	19	66	s	Tenerife	20	68	s
Bermuda	19	66	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	N York	4	39	f	Tokyo	8	46	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jo'burg	28	82	s	Nice	15	59	s	Toronto	-2	28	sn
Borde'x	11	52	f	Karachi	27	81	s	Oslo	-6	21	s	Tunis	17	63	f
Brussels	4	39	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	5	41	f	Valencia	18	64	s
Budapst	5	41	s	Le Touqt	5	41	s	Peking	5	41	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
B Aires	32	90	s	Lisbon	14	57	c	Perth	32	90	s	Venice	9	48	f
Cairo	18	64	s	Locarno	10	50	s	Prague	2	36	c	Vienna	5	41	f
Cape Tn	26	79	s	L Angels	14	57	s	Reykjavik	-3	27	s	Warsaw	2	36	c
Chicago	-2	28	s	Luxmbg	1	34	s	Rhodes	16	61	f	Wash'ton	3	37	f
Ch'church	18	64	c	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wel'ngton	20	68	c
Cologne	3	37	f	Madrid	7	45	c	Riyadh	18	64	s	Zurich	3	37	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: low W will drift east and fill. Low H will move northeast and become absorbed by low G, which will then move east



QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 3 May
● three night QE2 cruise to Lisbon via Gibraltar
● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,499

Concorde to Lisbon on 6 May ● four night VE Day cruise on QE2 to Southampton via Plymouth and Guernsey
● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,699

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 16 July
● eight night Land of the Midnight Sun cruise on QE2 via North Cape to Stavanger with the Norwegian Fjords
● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £2,499

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 26 July
● five night QE2 cruise to New York ● nine night coach tour to Boston, Montreal, Ottawa and Niagara
● Concorde return from Toronto £2,999

TORONTO WITH NIAGARA

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 27 May or 3 Sept.
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● Niagara with helicopter ● Phantom of the Opera
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Toronto with Ryder Cup on 20 Sept. £2,699

ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde from Heathrow to Nice on 2 July ● six night Oriana cruise from Cannes to Southampton via Tarragona and Lisbon ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Concorde to St Petersburg on 14 July ● eight night Oriana cruise to Southampton via Helsinki, Visby (Sweden), Gdynia (Poland) and Hamburg
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هكذا من الأصل

MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor peruses the Prudential departure

PROFILE 27

Partners in Power at Osborne & Little

SPORT 43-48

Leading light hopes to illuminate the Super Bowl in neon

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 28 1995

Ailing Kingfisher ousts two directors

By Susan Gilchrist

KINGFISHER yesterday ousted its chief executive and its finance director in a dramatic boardroom shake-up aimed at restoring confidence in the troubled stores group.

Alan Smith, chief executive for less than two years, is to leave the company. His role will be taken by Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, who will step down as chairman. Sir Nigel Mobbs, deputy chairman, will become non-executive chairman until a replacement is found. James Kerr-Muir, finance director, will leave in April.

The axe is also being wielded further down the organisation. A new managing director was appointed at Woolworth and the group is reviewing numbers at its 100-employee head office.

The radical changes at the helm came after an emergency meeting of Kingfisher's seven non-executive directors on Tuesday. Sir Nigel said yesterday: "There was a duplication of effort between Geoff and Alan. There wasn't room for the two of them, and we chose Geoff." The full board agreed the changes on Thursday evening.

City reaction was mixed. Some analysts felt that Mr Smith had been made a scapegoat for the company's problems. One said: "They have shot the wrong man." However, others believed that yesterday's actions would help to stem negative publicity that has overwhelmed Kingfisher in recent months and depressed the share price. Yesterday the shares rose 19p, to 408p.

It has long been rumoured that Sir Geoffrey and Mr Smith found it hard to work together — which they have vehemently denied. Yesterday, however, Sir Nigel acknowledged that they had had different views on how to run the business. The pair appear to have clashed in particular over the strategy for Woolworths, for which Mr Smith had special responsibility.

Mr Kerr-Muir, who succeeded Archie Norman, was felt to have lacked his predecessor's skill at managing City expectations. One analyst said that the group needed a more authoritative figure in the finance role.

The developments again turn the spotlight on to corporate pay. Sir Geoffrey received £1.31 million in the year to January 1994. Sir Nigel said that no discussions on reducing his pay had yet taken place. Mr Smith and Mr Kerr-Muir were on three-year rolling contracts. Mr Smith is paid more than £635,000. Mr Kerr-Muir earns in excess of £410,000. Although Kingfisher says that it will not have to pay out their contracts in full, compensation is likely to run into millions of pounds.

Kingfisher dream team, page 27
Tempus, page 28

Growth is not too fast, says Clarke

From Anatole Kaletsky
in Davos, Switzerland

THE Treasury does not see the recent rapid growth of the economy as unacceptably strong and will not raise interest rates simply to slow the economy, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said yesterday.

Many financial analysts have assumed that the Government would tighten monetary policy to reduce Britain's growth rate from last year's 4 per cent towards the level of 2 to 2.5 per cent generally considered to be the long-term sustainable rate. Sharp upward revisions to the quarterly figures for gross domestic product were given last autumn as the main reasons for the two increases in British interest rates, but Mr Clarke insisted that he would not necessarily react the same way to rapid growth in the future.

He said yesterday that continuing high growth should be achievable this year without endangering the Government's inflation target, although he made clear that this was not a hint about any decision on interest rates that may be made at his monthly meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England next week.

Speaking at a press conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Mr Clarke said there was every chance that Britain would this year repeat its 1994 achievement of being the fastest-growing major economy in Europe. "We may not make 4 per cent, but we will be near it," he said.

Commenting on market expectations that such rapid growth would be met with a tightening of monetary policy, Mr Clarke said: "Growth is one indicator that we look at in setting monetary policy, but it is not the only indicator. In the summer, we did react to the sudden surge in output, when we raised interest rates. But I don't personally believe that strong growth of this kind necessarily means there will be inflation."

WEEKEND
MONEY

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Anne Ashworth
on the Prudential

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The thrills and spills of a lottery syndicate

BANKRUPTCY

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Victim of the Woolwich Building Society

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Regulator forces power prospectus rewrite

By Carl Mortished

THE Government has been forced to delay publishing the prospectus for its £4 billion power privatisation after an embarrassing intervention by Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Electricity Supply.

The unprecedented week-long delay was called by the Treasury after the electricity regulator published a statement yesterday in response to concern by major electricity consumers about recent huge surges in electricity pool prices. Professor Littlechild admitted yesterday that average pool prices were running at levels well above the undertaking on pricing given by National Power and PowerGen.

News of the postponement coincided with confirmation that the Stock Exchange has adopted measures to prevent aggressive short selling during secondary share offers to depress the price. The Exchange will introduce an accelerated settlement regime of five days for transactions above a certain value which will be set for each offer, instead of the current ten days. This is intended to prevent investors from dumping stock ahead of an issue.

The Offer Director-General refused to agree to cut maximum price levels for the 1995-96 financial year despite a recent surge to 63p per kilowatt hour. In last February's undertaking the generators agreed to stabilise prices at an average 2.4p kwh time weighted. The undertaking allows the regulator to agree a revised level of Pool Purchase Price, but Professor Littlechild said it was uncertain whether or not the annual average price levels would be exceeded for 1994-95. "I shall, however, be monitoring the situation closely," he said. He threatened to take action against either company that broke the price agreement, which could include a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

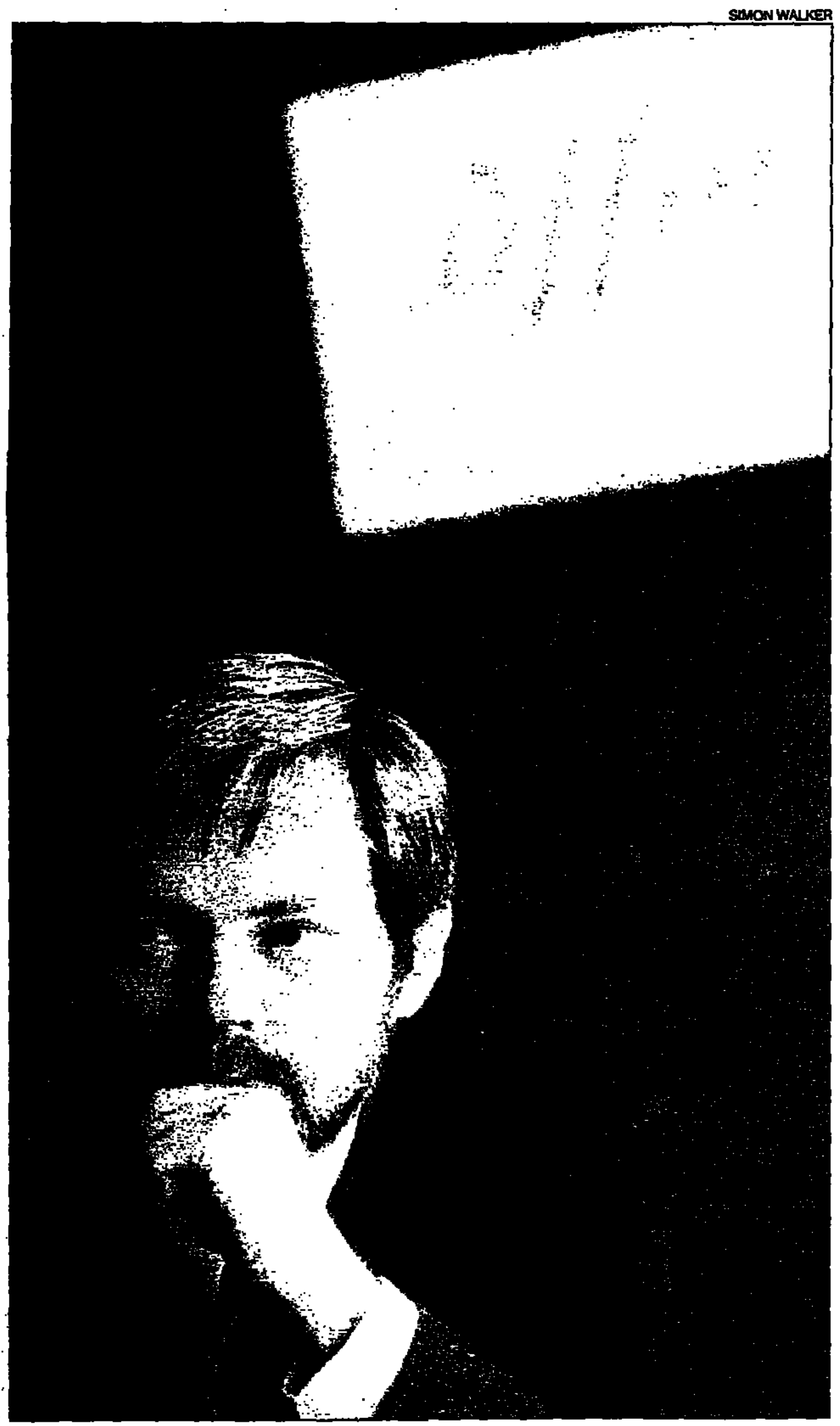
Yesterday's statement came only hours before the Treasury was to signal the go-ahead for printing 64,000 prospectuses. The Treasury's advisers will spend the weekend rewriting key sections of the document. Treasury spokesmen said that the flotation launch in mid-February would not be affected by the delay in the pathfinder.

The regulator blamed the recent price increses on the capacity element in pool prices used as an incentive in periods of peak demand. The unexpected closure of two nuclear plants caused a sharp reduction in capacity and a resultant price spike.

Large electricity consumers are likely to continue their attacks on the power industry during the float's revised timetable. Bryan Bulloch, ICI's power services manager, said that the regulator had been at pains to ensure that the generators would obtain adequate revenue to reward shareholders.

"As a consequence of recent power station outages the generators have both increased their market share and the prices they charge, thereby delivering windfall revenue for their shareholders."

SIMON WALKER



Professor Stephen Littlechild: monitoring electricity price levels closely

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3022.2	(+14.9)
Yield	4.28%	
FT-SE A All share	1494.34	(+5.29)
Nikkei	18104.35	(+33.51)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3855.97	(-14.47)*
S&P Composite	468.80	(+0.48)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 9/16%*	(5 5/8%)
Long Bond	96 1/2*	(96 [illegible])
Yield	7.81%*	(7.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 [illegible]%	(6 11/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	101 [illegible]	(101 [illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5890*	(1.5905)
London:		
$	1.5885	(1.5921)
DM	2.4074	(2.4096)
FFr	8.3515	(8.3390)
SFr	2.0242	(2.0275)
Yen	157.74	(158.08)
£ Index	80.0	(80.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5155*	(1.5177)
FFr	5.2525*	(5.2550)
SFr	1.2735*	(1.2760)
Yen	99.25*	(99.44)
$ Index	62.4	(62.4)

Tokyo close Yen 99.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.35	($16.55)

GOLD

London close	$377.75	($381.00)

* denotes midday trading price

Descent

USAir revealed an annual loss of $684.9 million yesterday, but British Airways, which holds a 24.6 per cent stake, said it was still fully committed to its alliance with the American airline. BA is sticking to its forecast of extra operating profits for BA this year. **Tempus, page 28**

Woolwich amends disciplinary rules

By Robert Miller

THE WOOLWICH, Britain's third-largest building society, has radically overhauled staff disciplinary procedures after strong criticisms from an industrial tribunal.

The tribunal was ruling in the case of Denise Trickey, a former employee at the society's Lewisham branch, who was summarily dismissed in February 1993. She was accused of breaching internal procedures over transactions with her own account and those of her family. More seriously, the society wrote to her: "Our investigations implicate you heavily in the fraudulent withdrawal of £4,500."

The alleged fraud involved a duplicate passbook being issued illicitly by an employee at the branch and £4,500 being withdrawn just days after it was issued. Because Mrs Trickey handled the cash withdrawal and because the branch's security cameras did not record the transaction, she became the prime suspect.

Last year the tribunal ruled unanimously that Mrs Trickey had been unfairly dismissed. It said the Woolwich's investigating officer's object was "to dig up muck" against her.

The Woolwich said this week: "We do hold our hands up about the disciplinary procedure, which doesn't show us up in a good light. This has now been reviewed and revised. We still stand by our belief that on the balance of probability our decision to summarily dismiss Mrs Trickey was correct."

Paying the price, page 31

Glaxo nearer to takeover victory

By George Sivell, Assistant Business Editor

GLAXO moved a step closer to victory yesterday in its £9 billion battle to acquire Wellcome, the rival pharmaceutical company.

The board of the Wellcome company said it was trying to find a better offer, but advisers to the charitable Wellcome Trust, which owns almost 40 per cent of the pharmaceutical company, said they were sticking to their recommendation to accept Glaxo's bid.

However, Robert Fleming, merchant bank adviser to the Wellcome Trust, left open the possibility of accepting a higher bid for Wellcome within 21 days of Glaxo's formal offer document going out, should one emerge.

John Robb, chairman and chief executive of the Wellcome company, said: "The Glaxo offer undervalues Wellcome and we are vigorously pursuing the objective of finding a better offer in order to maximise value for all shareholders."

Wellcome is approaching a number of big players in the pharmaceutical industry with confidential details of various projects in an attempt to land a higher bid before the Glaxo offer closes. The formal Glaxo document is due out next week, and Wellcome company directors have four weeks at most to land a higher bid.

The Wellcome board yesterday used as an example of its hidden value the announcement that Valtrex, a successor to the successful Zovirax herpes treatment, will be launched on Monday, six months earlier than expected.

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Bank of Ireland Mortgages

Tales of Newmarch and Cedricus

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

Whichever way one cuts it, the Prudential's battle with the City's regulatory authorities has backfired with a vengeance. Mick Newmarch, arch critic of the Personal Investment Authority, is out, caught between the Scylla of a Lautro investigation into the company's sale of personal pension plans and the Charybdis of a Stock Exchange probe into his personal share dealings. Everything personal, so to speak.

Sir Brian Corby, chairman, has been left to pick up the executive reins while a nominating committee begins the search for Newmarch's successor. Sir Martin Jacomb, chairman of Postel and chairman designate of the Pru, is expected to head up the committee. Corby refuses to comment on whether the appointment will come from inside or outside the High Holborn HQ. That said, or rather not said, speculation that the Pru might find difficulty in attracting an outside chief executive, in view of the current rumpus, is naive in the extreme. The seat which Mr Newmarch abruptly vacated on Monday happens to be one of the most prestigious thrones in high finance.

Corby has insisted, from the outset, that Newmarch's principal reason for deciding to quit lay in the "unacceptable" relationship that had developed with the regulatory authorities, rather than the potential embarrassment inherent in the Stock Exchange inquiry.

It is no secret that Lautro has been investigating the Pru's sale of personal pensions since last April, witness the leaked memo which alleged that practices had, in a significant number of cases, caused "actual harm to investors". The Pru's blunt response was that it had always "behaved properly" with regard to the sale of pension transfers and therefore felt no need to make provisions against possible mis-selling. What was not appreciated, until this week, was that a draft report by Lautro, delivered to the Pru late last year, apparently challenges Newmarch's consistent claims that the Pru was as white as the driven snow. Should Lautro stand by its findings — yet to be scrutinised by a monitoring committee — the Pru faces the possibility of disciplinary action.

Mr Newmarch's share dealings have been well chronicled. On October 25, three batches of options were exercised, namely 84,500 at 199p, 64,250 at 164p and 60,000 at 236p, with all the arising shares sold at 296p the same day. The following day, Newmarch was duly granted a further 140,500 options, exercisable at 296p from October 1997. In the event, the sale of shares on October 25, preceded the Securities and Investments Board's highly critical report on the mis-selling of personal pensions by a matter of hours. The Prudential has consistently stressed that, if Newmarch had not exercised the options on that day, he would have forfeited his right to a further tranche of options. Correct, but did Newmarch need to sell the shares that day? Might not a bank loan have secured the required sum to purchase the 140,500 options? With the benefit of hindsight, the interest on a short term loan would have proved cheap at the price.

In the event, Corby cleared the transaction which, as the Pru points out, was in accordance with the company's rules which, in turn, "fully comply" with Stock Exchange requirements. Just for good measure, the Stock Exchange's chief executive Michael Lawrence played a role, as former finance director of the Pru, in drawing up the rules. It appears there was precious little goodwill between Newmarch and Lawrence when the latter departed from Holborn, one of the reasons, presumably, why Lawrence has stressed that he has played no part in the Stock Exchange's inquiries which, apparently, are far from over.

***

The Grand Inquisitor Janquemada was troubled before the hearing. It used to be so satisfying to put on an auto-da-fé for the edification of Parliament and the people. He would encourage his fellow inquisitors to seek out heresy and condemn it, before handing the heretic to the media stake for burning. He was justly proud of his oratorial skills, honed after years in the Court of Holy Inquisition. But was it right to seek profit from explaining such arts, particularly to heretics who might learn ways to evade the seekers of the truth?

In bygone days, he and his fellow inquisitors from the spiritual wing found cases before them, such as these, uplifting, for they shamed their less austere brethren. The three suspected heretics were ex-galley slaves who had thrived from monopolies and now believed themselves the equals of their natural betters. Such *lèse-majesté* was a sure sign of heresy. But, Janquemada fretted, he too had advised on councils of remuneration and had learnt it was a tricky business to value a man. He reflected on his dealings with Cyrillus, the cadaverous one.

Tormented by such thoughts, the Grand Inquisitor was not at his best. First to be hauled before the inquisitors was Cedricus, the wickedist of all the heretics. The media and the people were baying. But Cedricus appeared to have learnt well and the Inquisition was unable to extract a confession of heresy. Even Janquemada's fellow spirituals had become lazy, unwilling to read their pre-hearing scrolls. Cedricus spread confusion most guilefully. What was the hidden meaning in his words that for a country "to create a society where someone in the seventh-largest company can go from the top to the bottom is something which should be encouraged"? Yet Cedricus's speech had elicited mirth not vengeful condemnation or calls for torture.

Only as the inquisition drew to a close did Janquemada display his great skills and interrogate Cedricus himself, extracting a small admission that heresy was purely a matter of presentation.

So Cedricus had survived and the media and the people would be denied the innocent merriment of a burning. Heresy would spread further, the country's rulers were too corrupt to stop it. Could Janquemada be sure that he, himself, did not appear in any way tainted? Tired and dejected, the Grand Inquisitor retired to write his report.

GrandMet sells free trade pubs

By Neil Bennett, deputy business editor

GRAND METROPOLITAN and Courage have begun to break up Inntrepreneur Estates, their jointly owned pubs chain, by selling the company's 1,750 free trade pubs to Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, for £254 million.

The sale is part of a complex financing transaction designed to place the free trade pubs in a separate company that intends to sell them all off over the next three years, either individually to their landlords or in groups to rival pub groups.

The pubs are being bought by Phoenix Inns, a new subsidiary of Morgan Grenfell, for their asset value. GrandMet and Courage will guarantee Phoenix's debts and will share in any profits from the disposal programme if it raises more than £254 million.

The deal leaves Inntrepreneur with 4,330 pubs, all tied to sell Courage beer. The creation of Phoenix coincides with the completion of Inntrepreneur's refinancing package, which was announced last November.

The company has been refinanced with an £800 million loan, underwritten by an international synicate of banks that includes National Westminster and JP Morgan. The loan enabled the company yesterday to repay a £360 million loan from GrandMet. GrandMet will use the cash to help to fund its recent £1.7 billion acquisition of Pet Inc, the American Mexican food group.

After the refinancing, GrandMet and Courage's financial involvement in Inntrepreneur has been restricted to their equity interests, which are each worth £212 million.

A spokesman for GrandMet said that Phoenix's new management team would make selling their pubs a priority. "It is clear to everybody that these pubs are open to offers. The intention is to dispose of the free estate," he said.

The sale is likely to attract pub operating companies such as Greenalls, who may be keen to buy the larger, higher volume outlets. The pubs were released from the tie in 1992 to comply with the Government's beer orders limiting the number of tied pubs the major brewers could own.

GrandMet has made it clear for some time that the free trade pubs were not a core part of Inntrepreneur's estate, and it emphasised yesterday that the remainder of the Inntrepreneur estate was not up for sale.

However, there is still strong speculation that the company will be floated or sold before its tie to Courage runs out in March 1998.

US growth raises rates speculation

By Janet Bush
Economics correspondent

THE American economy was at its strongest in the final three months of 1994 and growth was at its highest level in the year as a whole for a decade, underscoring speculation that the US Federal Reserve will put up interest rates next week.

US gross domestic product grew at an annual 4.5 per cent annual rate in the final quarter compared with 4.0 per cent in the third quarter, according to the Commerce Department. This was in line with expectations. However, despite faster growth, the two inflation measures which accompany GDP figures fell back in the fourth quarter. The fixed weight index fell to 2.6 per cent from 3.0 per cent in the third quarter while the implicit price deflator dropped to 1.6 per cent from 1.9 per cent.

The US Treasury bond market bounced strongly on the news of the economy.

Threat by Baring to quit gilts

By George Sivell
Assistant business editor

BARING Brothers, the merchant bank, last night said it would pull out of market making in Government stocks if proposals to develop a gilt repurchase market go ahead.

The statement from Baring comes just days before the end of the Bank of England and Inland Revenue consultation periods on the German-style market in Government securities announced in Kenneth Clarke's November Budget.

Baring is the first dissident market-maker to go public. The Bank of England is thought to have expected some objection, but reckons that most of the City's other 21 market-makers in gilts broadly welcome the proposals.

The Bank of England says that it would be July at the earliest before an open repo market could be set up. Until then, Barings says it will operate at a reduced level as a market-maker.

[illegible]

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.02
Austria Sch	17.95	16.45
Belgium Fr	52.69	48.38
Canada $	2.359	2.199
Cyprus Cyp£	0.784	0.729
Denmark Kr	10.13	9.33
Finland Mkk	8.12	7.47
France Fr	8.80	8.15
Germany Dm	2.56	2.35
Greece Dr	396.00	371.00
Hong Kong $	12.96	11.95
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Italy Lira	2655.00	2500.00
Japan Yen	172.50	156.50
Malta	0.620	0.565
Netherlds Gld	2.853	2.623
Norway Kr	11.15	10.35
Portugal Esc	260.00	241.50
S Africa Rd	[illegible]	5.38
Spain Pta	217.00	203.00
Sweden Kr	12.82	11.72
Switzerland Fr	2.18	1.98
Turkey Lira	[illegible]	62975.0
USA $	1.689	1.559

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Only 48 hours earlier, Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive of Glaxo, had dispatched a document to the Wellcome Trust. It outlined an offer so good that Sir Roger Gibbs, chairman of the trust, would find it hard to refuse — a document that would start a furious row . . ."

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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OSBORNE & LITTLE: **Sir Peter Osborne and Antony Little**

Partygoers who had designs on the Chelsea set

Jon Ashworth talks to the makers of wallpaper and fabrics whose products sell from London to Los Angeles

Antony Little, left, and Sir Peter Osborne: the outlandish designer and the respectable businessman who retain all the enthusiasm of the Swinging Sixties

Back in the Swinging Sixties, a bored ex-banker ran into an outlandish hippy at a party in London and an unusual double-act was born. Today, Sir Peter Osborne still *looks the banker*, and Antony Little would not look out of place on a beach in Goa, but there is nothing outdated about the wallpaper and coverings made by Osborne & Little.

More than a quarter of a century on, their design company has grown from a *small shop* in London's Chelsea to become an international organisation quoted on the London Stock Exchange and generating sales of £20 million a year. It has expanded into America and mainland Europe, and forged links with such exclusive designers as Nina Campbell, who did the interior of Sunninghill Park for the Duke and Duchess of York. Unusual the formula may be, but it works.

Osborne — everyone calls him plain Peter — grew up in Uckfield, Sussex, and read Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford. Now 51, he arrived in London in 1965, and, finding himself "at a bit of a loose end", signed up with Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank, an experience he did not enjoy. "I stayed there exactly a year," he recalls. "Friends used to ring and ask for 'Osborne of Cash'. I decided early on the City wasn't for me."

He spent another year indulging his passion for antiques and old books before running into Little, who was dating (and eventually married) his sister, Jennifer. They decided to lease a shop together. Osborne would sell antiquarian books. Little would use the basement as a design studio.

Books were dropped in favour of wallpaper somewhere along the way, and the Osborne & Little name made its debut in 1968, quickly winning a loyal following among the fashionable Chelsea set. The pair spent their early years opposite the original Habitat shop on Old Brompton Road before moving to bigger premises on King's Road in 1972.

The showroom is there to this day. The real action takes place in an old factory in Clapham, south-west London, home to about 165 people, including machinists, administrative staff and designers. Visitors for Osborne are ushered into a spacious office, the walls lined with colourful advertisements for Osborne & Little designed by his wife, Felicity, who handles publicity.

The Osbornes have a home in Notting Hill Gate — "I have always lived around there," he says — and a seven-acre estate at Highclere, Hampshire, bought with the proceeds of the 1985 stock market flotation. The two founders hold 70 per cent of the shares between them, a lack of liquidity reflected in a see-saw share price. Launched at 125p, the shares shot up to about 300p, and then tumbled to near 60p when recession hit. They are now back at about 386p.

> ‘We don't have any quarrels about the way things are going’

The couple have four sons, ranging in age from nine to 23. A family skiing trip to the Rockies is planned for April. Osborne admits to a love of opera — "Wagner is my great passion" — and is a keen horseman, riding from his country home on to the Downs.

Osborne & Little opened a showroom opposite Bloomingdales in New York several years ago, and has never looked back. Some 40 per cent of sales now come from America. "That was a very big thing we got right," recalls Osborne. "I paid $300,000 upfront for a 10-year lease, and another $120,000 for a warehouse in Stamford — without any turnover. I had a sleepless night wondering what I had done." He flies several times a year to the showrooms in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Little's studio, as one might expect, is the perfect counterpoint to Osborne's meticulously tidy office. Strips of wallpaper dangle from the wall. Books and notepads clutter the table, and a pile of fabric lies crumpled in the corner. A tabby sits *purring on the* windowsill.

The first thing one notices about Little are his boots — majestic white leather ones with platform heels. They are something of a trademark. The boots protrude from a neat pair of dark-blue pinstriped trousers. He wears a matching jacket and poloneck sweater. Six months older than Osborne at 52, he could pass for an ageing rock star, his fringe hanging trendily down over his eyes. Andy Warhol springs to mind. His voice is soft and urbane.

Little, an Englishman, grew up in Snowdonia, and was fluent in Welsh by the time he left school at the age of 14. "I was put in school with a lot of Welsh farmers' sons," he recalls. "It was pretty rough and ready, but I fitted in pretty well with them." He went on to spend six years at art school, and enjoyed the Liverpool scene before moving up to London.

It was an exciting time. "There was a revolution going on in each of the applied arts areas," he recalls. "It was a good atmosphere. Whatever had gone before was not necessarily wrong, but there was *no respect for tradition*. It just threw open the bounds of what you could do."

The late Sixties found Little working as a freelance designer, illustrating magazines and books, *taking whatever work came along*. "It was totally varied — designing clothes for some ghastly pop group, doing up restaurants and shops."

Design brought a succession of one-off fees, but no long term security. Big wallpaper companies were churning out bland mass-market designs, creating an obvious opportunity for a talented designer. "We could never have survived *without that huge yawning gap*."

He met his wife-to-be "at some party or other" and through her was introduced to Osborne. Their company soon became part of the local fabric. "If people wanted frocks they went to Mary Quant. If they needed a casserole dish they went to Terence Conran. If they wanted wallpaper, they came to us."

Little happily admits that he cut an outlandish figure next to the more conventional Osborne. "I looked quite amazing in those days," he chuckles. "Even my friends were quite stunned at times." The partnership worked well *from the beginning*. "He was the respectable businessman. People expected the designer to be half-mad. I didn't disappoint them."

He and his wife still live in Chelsea — "she shops all day" — and retreat to a remote hunting lodge in north Wiltshire at weekends. He and Osborne "get on very well — we agree on more than enough. Peter and I don't have any quarrels about the way things are going." *Osborne concurs*. "I can't remember ever having had a row with Antony. He's a very easy-going guy."

It is tempting to let the stereotypes rest: Osborne the businessman, *Little the creative genius*, but that would be far too simplistic. Little is not as removed from the world of business as he may at first appear. "Peter is very creative. I have constructive business ideas. He laps up the arts. I read the *FT*."

Neither has lost the enthusiasm that fired the project all those years ago. "Growth prospects are excellent from a design point of view," says Little. "We have established a very good presence in printed fabrics, woven fabrics and wallpaper." Osborne agrees. "Sales this year are up about 28 per cent. If we can produce that sort of organic growth in world recession, basically we're on the right track."

Why Kingfisher dream team never flew in formation

Susan Gilchrist on the upheavals and challenges facing the Woolworths to Superdrug group

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy must turn Kingfisher round quickly

Two years ago, Kingfisher was the City's *favourite* retailer and Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, its chairman, could do no wrong. Today, there is blood on the boardroom carpet and the company has been subjected to the kind of vitriolic criticism not seen in the industry since *the fall of* Gerald Ratner's empire.

Mulcahy has survived, but has been forced to relinquish his post as chairman. The most recent recruits, Alan Smith, chief executive, and James Kerr-Muir, finance director, have quietly fallen on their swords.

So what has gone wrong for the company and the man who is widely credited with putting the wonder back into Woolies? Kingfisher's share price, which peaked at 773p in December 1993, has spent much of the past month languishing below 400p.

It was all meant to be so different. Smith joined as *chief executive in April* 1993 after 27 years with Marks and Spencer. He was unknown in the City, but his hands-on operational experience was *supposed to be the* ideal complement to Mulcahy's famed strategic skills. Indeed, Mulcahy had courted Smith for several years before managing to persuade him to take the job. Smith, it was claimed, was just the man to put Kingfisher's strategy of Every Day Low Prices (EDLP) into practice.

He was not the only new man at the top. James Kerr-Muir had joined in 1992 to fill the gap left by Archie Norman, Kingfisher's previous finance director, who had been head-hunted to be chief executive of Asda. Although Kerr-Muir lacked Norman's charisma, he was seen as a safe pair of hands. He was a former finance director of Tate & Lyle and, like Norman, had an MBA from Harvard to boot.

It sounded like a solid management team and one that had an ideal strategy for the cautious, recession-weary consumer of the 1990s. However, what sounded so good in theory failed to deliver in practice. While B&Q and Darty continued to make steady progress, the position of the group's other chains — Comet, Woolworths and Superdrug — began to look decidedly precarious.

Profit growth stalled, and without the Darty acquisition, would have gone into reverse. *With every piece of* news that emerged from the company, analysts found themselves forced to downgrade profit forecasts yet further.

Questions were being asked. Was the combination of Mulcahy and Smith working? Why was the performance of *Woolworths, for* which Smith had special responsibility, so dire? Was the group, which had set the pace in the industry for so long, now *lagging behind*?

The rumour mill worked overtime. It was exacerbated by the fact that Smith resolutely maintained a low profile and let Mulcahy do all the talking in public. Instead of being the ideal partnership, people now saw them as incompatible.

What is now clear is that Smith found it difficult to break out of the Marks and Spencer "thinking" and adapt to the Kingfisher style. *The two* companies could *not* be more different in terms of their culture and they way they operate.

M&S, with its long heritage, is traditional in its approach, whereas Kingfisher, formed only in 1982, is a younger, more aggressive animal. M&S favours a strong, centralised management role, whereas Kingfisher devolves power to its subsidiaries. Smith, say insiders, could not handle this more freewheeling and radical way of doing things.

Although insiders say that Mulcahy and Smith actually get on as friends, the working relationship has never *clicked*. The strategic and operational skills that were supposed to blend so well never meshed at all. They had innumerable differences of opinion over how to go about things, and it was friction all the way.

The *crunch* point came over Woolworths, which has had a miserable two years with a series of operational blunders and management changes. The two men had different views on the solution, and, ultimately, Mulcahy *has* won the day.

Kerr-Muir is also on his way out. The precipitous decline in the group's share price is in part blamed on his failure to *manage the* City's expectations. Filling Norman's shoes was always going to be tough, and, in the end, the board decided that he was *not up* to the task.

So Kingfisher is now back where it started, with Mulcahy in the chief executive's chair — but perhaps not in the driving seat. He will have to turn things round visibly and quickly if it is not to be his blood spilt next time.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Share sales start new Lasmo takeover talk

BA shares came off the top after USAir failed to win pay cuts

CLAIMS that a large parcel of shares had changed hands outside the market set the alarm bells ringing at **Lasmo**, an old takeover favourite. The price of the oil exploration group climbed 6p to 147p as almost 5 million shares were transacted, including a parcel of 1.25 million at the upper level of 147p.

Only last year, Lasmo fought off an unwanted £1.6 billion bid from **Enterprise Oil**, 2p better at 402p. Then the City had little appetite for the all-paper offer from Enterprise, and gave the new Lasmo management an opportunity to whip the company back into shape.

The biggest outside shareholders in Lasmo are Phillips & Drew Fund Management, part of *UBS, with 14 per cent,* and Capital Group Inc, with almost 5 per cent. If any stakes had changed hands yesterday, no one was prepared to talk. Dealers said that with the *market currently in the grip of* takeover fever, every piece of bid speculation was bound to attract attention.

The rest of the equity market shrugged off its early lethargy, *cheered by the latest* US gross domestic product, which eased some of the pressure for a sizeable rise in US interest rates next week when the Federal Open Mar*ket Committee meets. The FT*-SE 100 index, which had marked time for much of the day, went into a higher gear during the afternoon to close 14.9 better at 3,022.2, a rise on the week of 27.2 points. Turnover continued to improve, and by the close total share turnover was 712 million.

Wellcome continued to edge towards Glaxo's bid terms of £10.25 a share with a rise of 12p to 997p. The Wellcome Trust, speaking for 40 per cent of the shares, has committed itself to accepting the offer. It said it was impressed by the efforts of the Wellcome board to extract a higher offer. **Glaxo** hardened 2p to 618p.

Last night, stories circulating within the Square Mile claimed that Pfizer and Merck, the US pharmaceutical groups, may be looking to step in with a bid for Wellcome.

Kingfisher rallied 19p to 408p in response to details of the boardroom reshuffle which comes just days after the group issued a profits warning following a 10 per cent drop in sales at its Comet, consumer electronics retail chain. Alan Smith, chief executive, is leaving after less than two years in the job. Also on *the way out is finance director* James Kerr-Muir. Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy steps down as chairman to fill the role of chief executive. Brokers welcomed the changes, saying it *underlined the group's det*ermination to deal with the problems at its Woolworths and Comet subsidiaries. **British Airways** enjoyed an early mark-up, touching 381p before closing only 6p better at 373p. The activity in the shares came after USAir, its troubled associate, announced it had failed to negotiate pay cuts with the workforce following ten months of talks. BA holds a near-25 per cent stake in USAir.

Lucas Industries rose 5p to 189p after NatWest Securities, the broker, raised its pre-tax profit forecast for this year from £132.5 million to £145 million. NatWest said it made its move to reflect the recovery in European car sales, and production and loss elimination in the Aerospace division.

Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, climbed 17p to 618p, despite moving to dampen some of the recent bid speculation in the sector. In a brief statement, the company *stresed it was not in merger or* bid discussions with any party. Kleinwort acted after its shares encounter further speculative buying following claims in a German newslet*ter that the Dresdner Bank* was prepared to make an offer of 800p a share. Dresdner continued to deny such claims. But speculators remain convinced that a bid in the banking sector may be imminent. Top of their hit list is SG **Warburg**, up another 10p at 757p, after briefly touching 769p. A few weeks ago, Warburg broke off merger talks with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank. But it is still felt to be as vulnerable to a bid as ever.

TSB firmed 2p to 244p. Large turnover earlier in the week convinced brokers that something from the group is imminent. A bid from Banque National de Paris of more than 300p a share is one option. *The other is a buyer* emerging for its Hill Samuel merchant banking subsidiary.

Smith New Court, the broker, ran into profit-taking, easing 9p to 440p. Earlier this week there was *talk* of a merger with **Schroders**, the merchant bank, 10p firmer at £14.50.

BICC managed to claw-back an early fall to end the *day unchanged at 303p. The* shares have been a weak market ever since Cazenove, the broker, downgraded its profits forecast. The company has also been undermined by *suggestions that Sir Robin* Biggam, its chairman, may be on the move.

The electricity distributors were a flat spot, worried that Trafalgar House's bid for ***Northern Electric**, down 17p* at 973p, is about to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

There were falls for **East Midland**, 11p to 777p, ***Eastern**, 8p to 714p, **London**, 14p to* 702p, **Manweb**, 10p to 794p, **Norweb**, 5p to 810p, **Seeboard**, 9p to 432p, **South West**, 10p to 803p, **South Wales**, 9p to 807p, and **York*shire**, 6p to 788p.*

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Gilts enjoyed an early mark-up on the back of firmer US Treasury bonds.

After a brief pause around *mid-afternoon* to digest the latet US gross domestic product, prices again made headway, enabling them to close near their best.

The March series of the long gilt future climbed £13/32 to £101 11/16 as turnover reached a total of 58,000 contracts.

Attention among conventional issues was focused on the shorter end of the market before next week's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee which is expected to signal a rise in interest rates.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £¼ better at £97 13/32, while at the longer end of the market Treasury 8 per cent 2013 jumped £7/16 to £95½.

☐ **NEW YORK**: US shares were lower at midday as blue chips mirrored fears of an economic slowdown. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 14.47 points at 3,855.97.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Wellcome	998p	+310p	Glaxo bids £9 billion
TSB Group	243p	+16p	Bid speculation
Mercury Asset Man	799p	+40p	Speculative buying
SG Warburg	758p	+27p	Talk of a bid
Meggitt	63p	-15p	Profits warning
Inchcape	317p	-76p	Profits warning
Prudential Corp	298p	-15p	Mick Newmarch resigns
Lombard Insurance	231p	+57p	Groupama bids £83 million
Cadbury Schweppes	421p	+21p	Bids for Dr Pepper

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3855.97 (-14.47)
S&P Composite	468.80 (+0.48)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18104.35 (+33.51)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	7297.12 (-13.41)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	412.46 (+1.73)
Sydney:	
AO	1862.6 (+12.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2031.70 (+1.01)
Singapore:	
Straits	2035.00 (+34.10)
Brussels:	
General	7075.45 (+13.42)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1814.13 (-12.15)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	624.10 (-1.20)
London:	
FT 30	2284.9 (+13.0)
FT 100	3022.2 (+14.9)
FT-SE Mid 250	3398.2 (+1.0)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1307.52 (-0.58)
FT A All-Share	1494.34 (+5.29)
FT Non Financials	1623.08 (+6.21)
FT Gold Mines	193.5 (-0.6)
FT Fixed Interest	109.40 (+0.29)
FT Govt Secs	90.99 (+0.38)
Bargains	20099
SEAQ Volume	613.6m
USM (Datastrm)	146.39 (-0.02)
US$	1.5920 (-0.0015)
German Mark	2.4063 (-0.0042)
Exchange Index	80.0 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2680
£:SDR	1.0825
RPI	146.0 Dec (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mngmnt Inv (100)	99	...
Caledn Media Wts	5½	...
Clydeport	157	...
First Russ Front ($10)	570	...
Gart Micro Index	95	+1
Gart Micro Wts	39	...
Lazard Birla Ida	51¼	...
Lazard Birla Ida Wts	30½	...
MCIT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCIT S Inc (35)	36	...
MICE Group (3)	3¼	...
Mthsn Lloyds Inv (100)	82	...
Pentex Oil	95	...
TeleWest Coms (182)	174	...
Wellington Under (100)	102	...
Woodchester Units	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dares Estates n/p (4)	¼	+ ¼
Hewitt n/p (68)	22	...
Verity n/p (7½)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Reed Int	749p (+8p)
Ulster TV	684p (+29p)
British Gas	305½p (+7p)
Burmah Castrol	828p (+10p)
Calor Group	274p (+9p)
Wellcome	998p (+12p)
British Land	378p (+11p)
Kwik Save	587p (+12p)
Kingfisher	408p (+19p)
Guinness	421p (+9p)
Legal & General	432p (+7p)
United Friendly	480p (+7p)
Arcon Int	45p (+6p)
FALLS:	
Caledonia	634p (-8p)
Govett	325p (-16p)
Smith New Court	440p (-9p)
Rowlinson Secs	125p (-10p)
JD Wood	46p (-8p)
RCO	283p (-10p)
Commercial Union	498p (-7p)
Yorkshire TV	414p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Kingfisher blues

THE boardroom bloodbath at Kingfisher is a vivid demonstration of non-executive power at work. With their backs against the wall, and the share price in free fall, the non-executives acted with chilling ruthlessness. It is the first straightforward message from the company in some months.

In the short term, the share price should benefit as the situation is clarified. But Kingfisher still has fundamental operational problems to solve. Comet is probably the trickiest. The chain was the first to move out-of-town, the real centre of action in electrical retailing, and should therefore have an advantage over its competitors. Instead, it has *squandered this opportunity and now finds* itself being crucified by competitors. With Currys and the RECs still expanding, there seems little prospect of the pressure easing.

Woolworths has a nasty habit of getting its stock position wrong. Management has come and gone but the problems remain. The installation of Epos will help, but it is still unclear *what* Woolworth's role in the high street really is. With its broad product range — which it has been threatening to extend further — it competes against several specialists and its cost base is still too high to deliver a low-price proposition profitably.

Even its stronger chains are *facing* difficulties. J Sainsbury's acquisition of Texas Homecare suddenly creates a national competitor to B&Q which is a genuine threat, something it has not had to deal with for some time.

The night of the long knives may be over but there are still plenty of uncertainties to unsettle the shares.

British Airways

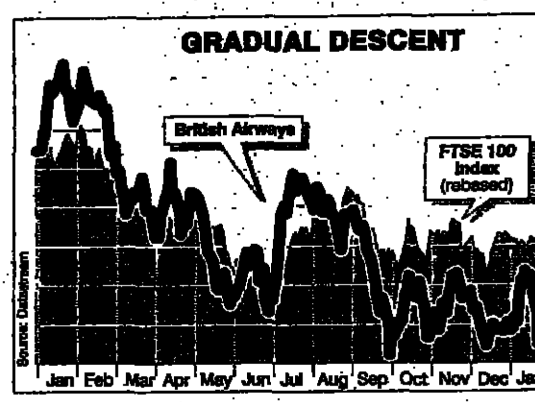
USAIR is a problem that will not go away from British Airways. The American airline is now losing so much, *$3.5 million* a day, it would be cheaper for it to pay customers to fly with its rivals.

The company's main shareholders, BA and Warren Buffett, have *pinned* their hopes that negotiations with the unions could cut costs by $500 million. But the talks are dragging on endlessly and hopes of both *sides reaching* a realistic agreement must be dwindling.

USAir cannot continue on its current flight path for too long without a refinancing *or worse. BA has made it* clear that it cannot be seen as a buyer of last resort for the airline, and that it is likely to write off most or all of its *$400 million stake at its* year-end in March.

But BA is torn between the urgent need to help USAir sort out its finances, and the benefits that USAir's current *network* bring to its own business. Rationalising USAir successfully would require it to close a host of its worst-performing routes. But these are the very routes providing BA with extra transatlantic passengers through the code-sharing agreement. This is worth more than £60 million a year in additional revenue and cannot be sacrificed lightly. But unless USAir can reverse its losses quickly, it will need more cash. That should concentrate minds wonderfully at Speedbird House.

GRADUAL DESCENT



Power

NOTHING concentrates the minds quite like a £4 billion share sale. The electricity regulator's long-winded treatise on pool pricing, published yesterday, made new ground in the history of regulatory capitulation to government. While admitting that pool prices were soaring above the undertaking on pricing given by the generators, his answer is to monitor the situation but take no action to reduce the price caps.

Stephen Littlechild's anodyne commentary has generated a bizarre panic from the Government, which is trying to sell £4 billion of generator shares; hundreds of lawyers will be ramping their fees this weekend in an attempt to turn the regulator's academic prose into impenetrable legal jargon that will be read by few and understood by none.

The problem is the curious system of electricity pricing that provides superprofits to the generators in the form of capacity payments when there are peaks in demand and shortages of supply. Offer suggests that the system is designed to attract new capacity from competitor generators, but admits that the electricity industry is far from fully competitive. To make matters worse, the generators are shutting down capacity. As the Government sell-off approaches, their cries may become even more shrill.

Effective index

IT MAY not please Conservative Euro-sceptics, but Britain's currency yesterday became one step more closely linked with those on the Continent.

The Bank of England yesterday announced that it has revised the way it makes up sterling's effective rate index, taking account of new figures from the International Monetary Fund for trade flows, adding Greece, Portugal, Australia and New Zealand to the basket of currencies used and also giving European currencies more weight.

The upshot of these changes, *with the rebased* index first appearing on February 1, is that sterling's movements will be more heavily influenced by currency changes in Europe and that the dollar will have slightly less impact on sterling's rate. The total weight of European Union countries in the basket will now be 70 per cent, instead of 55.6 per cent, while the dollar's weight falls to 16.5 per cent, from 20.4 per cent.

For the past, the Bank's changes mean *that* sterling's index would have been about 1.5 per cent higher in 1994 because of its relative strength against European currencies. For the future, it means that the pound is more vulnerable to independent deutschmark strength, but will see less impact if the long-elusive dollar recovery finally happens.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	1000-999	May	1055-1054
May	1004-1002	Jul	1065-1062
Jul	1013-1011	Sep	1074-1071
Sep	1022-1020	Dec	1089-1085
Dec	1033-1030		
Mar	1045-1044		Volume: 4299

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2800-2790	Sep	2740-2730
Mar	2795-2790	Nov	2735-2730
May	2745-2742	Jan	2755-2735
Jul	2725-2720		Volume: 3145

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	356.5-53.5
Spot: 402.00		Dec	354.5-49.1
Mar	400.4-98.6	Mar	350.0-43.2
May	395.0-93.5	May	349.0-41.3
Aug	382.5-81.0		Volume: 1356

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average Livestock prices at representative markets on January 26

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	84.02	121.15	119.58
(+/-)	+2.34	+3.78	-0.96
Eng/Wales:	84.08	120.92	118.79
(+/-)	+2.31	+3.51	-1.10
(%)	+15.0	+25.0	-16.0
Scotland:	76.79	122.16	122.21
(+/-)	+1.77	+5.00	-1.03
(%)	-32.0	+42.0	+6.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.35	-0.50
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.35	-0.35
Brent 15 day (Apr)	*16.35*	*-0.30*
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	17.90	-0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	17.80	-0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 162 (-2)	O: 164 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	145 (-2)	147 (-1)
Non EEC IH Mar	147 (-2)	149 (-1)
Non EEC IH Apr	*148 (-1)*	*149 (-2)*
3.5 Fuel Oil	98 (-3)	101 (-2)
Naphtha	162 (-1)	164 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	143.00-43.25	May	146.00-46.25
Mar	145.00-45.25	Jun	147.00 SLR
Apr	146.00-46.25		Vol: 9506

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	16.37-16.38	Jun	unq
Apr	16.35 SLR	Jul	16.25 BID
May	16.34 SLR		Vol: 40144

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	109.70	Mar	104.65
May	111.60	May	106.15
Jul	112.85	Sep	97.75
Sep	98.90	Nov	99.35
Nov	99.95	Jan	100.90
Volume: 190		Volume: 50	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	359.0	357.3
May	unq	375.0
Jun	—	*unq*
		Volume: 90

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kl)

Feb 118.25-118.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 95	1993	1985	1993
Feb 95	*1893*	*1860*	*1890*
Mar 95	1860	1850	1860
Apr 95	1840	1835	1853

Vol: 244 lots Open interest: 3780

Index 1983 -13

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 3007.0-3009.0	3mth: 2998.0-2999.0	Vol: 2115150
Lead ($/tonne)	*679.00-679.50*	*695.00-695.50*	*169075*
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1165.0-1166.0	1193.0-1194.0	592250
Tin ($/tonne)	6295.0-6300.0	6380.0-6385.0	23655
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2106.0-2107.0	2151.0-2151.5	1220425
Nickel ($/tonne)	10080-10085	10275-10285	89370

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Allid Dom.	500	31½	41½	47½	11	22½	23
(*514½)	550	9½	18	24	38½	52	50
Argyll	280	19½	21½	24	10	16½	19
(*281)	300	7½	13	16	21½	29	31
ASDA	60	10½	12½	13	0½	1½	2½
(*69½)	70	3½	4½	7	3½	5	6½
Boots	460	26½	36	39½	9½	18½	21½
(*470)	500	9	16½	21	32½	41½	44
Br Airways	360	26½	34½	40½	8½	17	20½
(*373)	390	11½	19	26½	24	33	36½
BP	390	32	39	44½	5	11	13
(*413)	420	14½	22½	28	18	24	26
Br Steel	140	13½	17½	19½	3	5½	7
(*149)	160	3½	7½	10	13½	16	17
C & W	360	29	37	43	9	15½	19½
(*376)	390	13	21½	28	23	30½	34½
CU	493	19½	—	—	24	—	—
(*499)	543	4½	—	—	61½	—	—
ICI	750	34½	48½	55	26	34½	40
(*765)	800	12½	27	33½	58½	64½	69
Kingfishr	390	32½	37	42	8½	17	22
(*408)	420	16	21½	27½	20	33	37½
Land Sec	550	22½	32	35½	13½	27½	31
(*562½)	600	5	10½	16	48	62	64
M & S	360	22½	33	39	9½	10½	13
(*377½)	390	10½	17	23½	19	25½	27½
Nat West	460	37	45	54	13	17½	25
(*490)	500	14½	25	34½	34	38	45½
Sainsbury	420	26½	32½	40½	9	16	18½
(*435)	460	8½	14½	21	29½	38	40
Shell	700	32	43	52	17	21	27
(*718½)	750	9½	19½	28	48½	51	55½
Smkl Bch	420	38½	46	54½	6½	13	17
(*449½)	460	16	24½	34	24½	31	35½
Storehse	220	11½	15½	18½	6½	10½	12½
(*221)	240	4½	7	10	19½	22½	24
Trafalgar	60	8½	11	12½	1½	2½	3½
(*66)	70	3	6	8	6	7½	8
Unilever	1150	44	62	82½	32½	44½	50
(*1162½)	1200	20½	39	58½	64	73½	78
Zeneca	850	52	64½	73½	19	29	36
(*885)	900	24	38½	47½	45½	54½	60½
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met.	360	11½	26	30½	3	9	14½
(*368)	390	0½	12	16½	22	25½	30½
Ladbroke	160	8	13	18	2	8½	11
(*166)	180	0½	5½	9½	14½	20½	23
Utd Bisc	300	24	29½	31½	0½	6½	12½
(*322)	330	4½	12½	17	11	23½	28

January 27, 1995 Tot: 34293 Call: 17516 Put: 16777 FT-SE Call: 5082 Put: 5982

*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	450	29	—	—	8½	—	—
(*465)	475	15	—	—	20	—	—
Thames W	460	23	30	33½	13½	28	28½
(*463)	500	7	14½	17	39½	54	54½
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BAT Ind	420	32½	41	46	1	11	20
(*450½)	460	5½	17	25½	14½	31½	41
BTR	300	9	15	22½	3½	13	16½
(*304½)	330	0½	4	11	25½	34	36
Br Aero	448	23	30½	—	4	18½	—
(*466½)	487	3½	18½	—	24	39	—
Br Telecm	390	17	29	36	1½	8	14½
(*404)	420	2	14	20	17	22½	30
Cadbury	420	6	15	25½	16½	23	26
(*421)	460	0	5	12	54½	55	55½
Guinness	390	31	38	43	0½	6½	9½
(*419½)	420	8½	18	25	7½	19½	22½
GEC	260	16	23½	27½	0½	4½	9
(*274)	280	3½	11½	16	8	12	18½
Hanson	220	14	17½	21½	1	5	8½
(*232½)	240	2	7	11½	9	14½	18½
LASMO	140	9½	14	17½	1½	5½	7
(*147)	160	0½	6	8½	13½	16½	18
Lucas	180	10½	17	22½	1½	7	10
(*188½)	200	1	7½	13	12½	18	21
Pilkingtn	140	9½	15½	19	1	4	7
(*147½)	160	1	6	9½	12½	15	17½
Prudential	280	19½	24	29½	1	8	12
(*297½)	300	6	12	19	7½	18	22
Redland	420	12	24½	29½	7	26	30½
(*424½)	460	0½	9	14	35½	55	58
R-Royce	160	4	10	14½	4	10	12
(*160)	180	0	3½	7½	20	24	25½
Tesco	240	16½	23	26	0½	6½	8
(*259)	260	4	10	15	7½	14½	17½
Vodafone	183	10	—	—	1½	—	—
(*190½)	200	2	6½	13	10½	14½	18
Williams	300	29	35	38	0½	5	8½
(*328)	330	9½	15	20	7½	18	21½

FT-SE INDEX (*3021½)

	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150
Calls						
Feb	138	95	59	31	14½	5½
Mar	152	116	83½	56	35½	21
Apr	171½	136	105½	79½	56	39½
May	189½	156½	126	101	77½	60
Jun	198½	—	140	—	91	—
Puts						
Feb	8	15½	30½	53	87	136
Mar	25	38	55½	79	108½	145½
Apr	45	60½	80	103½	131	165
May	56	73	94	118½	146	179
Jun	65	—	104	—	156	—

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat.	420	18½	25½	31	12½	20	27
(*429)	460	3	10½	15½	43	46½	52
Amstrad	125	10½	15	—	2½	6	—
(*133)	150	1	5	—	18½	20½	—
Barclays	550	40½	50	59½	8½	18	27½
(*581½)	600	12	25½	35	34½	44½	53
Blue Circ	260	14½	21½	28½	6½	15½	20
(*266)	280	5½	12½	20	17½	27½	32
Br Gas	300	12	19½	24	6½	14	16
(*304½)	330	2	6½	11½	26	34	38½
Dixons	200	9½	16½	21½	7½	10½	14½
(*201½)	220	3	9½	12½	20½	25	27½
Forte	240	10½	16	20½	7½	14	17
(*240½)	260	3½	8	12½	21	27	29
Hillsdwn	160	17½	20	21½	1	5½	8
(*175½)	180	4½	8	11	8	16	18½
Lonrho	140	15½	20½	23	1½	4½	7
(*155½)	160	4	9½	12½	10½	13½	16½
Sears	90	10	12½	15	1	2½	3½
(*98½)	100	3½	6½	7½	4½	7½	9
Thrn Emi	1000	40	68½	78½	14½	26½	44½
(*1018½)	1050	15½	42	51	40½	51	71
Tomkins	200	22	28½	32	1	4½	8
(*219½)	220	8	16½	20	7½	12	16½
TSB	240	13½	21½	24½	12	16	20
(*244)	260	6	13½	16½	25	28½	32
Wellcome	950	67½	82½	100½	19	29	39
(*999)	1000	36	53½	69½	40	51	61
	Series	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo	600	37	54	65	23	30½	44
(*617½)	650	15½	32	41½	52½	58½	77
HSBC	600	46½	56½	65	22	32½	41½
(*630½)	650	20	32½	42	50½	60½	68½
Reuter	430	30½	40	49	12	17	22
(*436½)	460	13	22½	30½	34	39	43
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Jul**	**Feb**	**May**	**Jul**
Royal Ins	260	9	16½	22	5½	16	18½
(*263)	280	2	9	14	18½	28½	30½
	Series	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Fisons	100	11½	14½	18½	2½	5	7½
(*107½)	110	6	9½	14	7	10	12½
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Eastern Gp	700	26	52	66	8½	27½	41½
(*714)	750	5	28	42	38½	53	69
	Series	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Natl Pwr	460	29½	38½	47½	7	18½	23
(*478)	500	8½	17½	28½	27	39½	44
Scot Pwr	330	13½	25½	29½	9½	16½	22
(*331½)	360	3	12½	16½	30	34	40

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 64116	Mar 95	3023.0	3042.0	3015.0	3029.0	12792
	Jun 95				3038.5	0
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3944	Mar 95				3410.0	0
	Jun 95					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 419783	Mar 95	92.88	92.91	92.83	92.85	24756
	Jun 95	92.18	92.26	92.17	92.18	37923
	Sep 95	91.67	91.77	91.67	91.71	14594
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 2114	Mar 95				93.36	0
	Jun 95				92.78	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 713389	Mar 95	94.81	94.82	94.75	94.76	37315
	Jun 95	94.41	94.46	94.36	94.39	63969
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 91426	Mar 95	101-15	101-31	101-14	101-22	59387
	Jun 95	101-26	101-27	101-23	101-22	517
Japanese Govnt Bond	Mar 95	108.43	108.54	108.42	108.54	2468
	Jun 95	107.66	107.76	107.66	107.79	107
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 206356	Mar 95	90.38	90.70	90.31	90.51	155257
	Jun 95	89.76	90.00	89.76	89.92	331
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 22319	Mar 95	93.54	93.58	93.48	93.50	2237
	Jun 95	93.05	93.11	93.00	93.01	1585
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 43180	Mar 95	95.85	95.87	95.80	95.83	4736
	Jun 95	95.49	95.56	95.48	95.51	4826
Italian Govnt Bond Previous open interest: 55108	Mar 95	99.85	99.94	99.56	99.73	23679
	Jun 95	99.00	99.00	98.70	98.76	270

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6¾
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5 Low 4 Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth 6¼. Sell: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth: 6⅛.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅜-6¼	6½-6 11/32	6 21/32-6 15/32	7-6⅞	
Sterling Money Rates:	6½-6¼	6⅝-6 9/16	6¾-6 11/16	7¼-7	7⅝-7½
Interbank:	6½-6¼	6⅝-6 9/16	6¾-6 11/16	7¼-7	7⅝-7½

Overnight: open 5, close 4.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6¼	n/a	6 11/16	7	7½
Sterling CDs:	6⅜-6¼	6 19/32-6 17/32	6 11/16-6⅝	7⅛-6 31/32	7 23/32-7 19/32
Dollar CDs:	5.90-5.87	n/a	6.19-6.16	6.60-6.57	7.20-7.17
Building Society CDs:	6½-6¼	6½-6 7/16	6¾-6⅝	7¼-7	7¾-7½

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £2,930m allotted: £500m; Bids: £98.47% received: 31%: Last week: £98.535% received: n/a%: Avge rate: £6.1071%, last wk £5.8761%: Next week: £500m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	6-5⅞	6¼-6 3/16	6 11/16-6 9/16	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	4¾-4⅝	4 25/32-4 23/32	5-4⅞	5¼-5⅛	5½-4½
French Franc:	5⅝-5 9/16	5¾-5 9/16	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6	6-5
Swiss Franc:	3⅞-3¾	3⅞-3¾	4-3⅞	4¼-4⅛	4½-3½
Yen:	2¼-2	2¼-2⅛	2 5/16-2 3/16	2 5/16-2 3/16	2½-1½

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $380.90-381.30 Close: $377.50-378.00 High: $381.10-381.60
Low: $377.30-377.80 AM: $380.00 PM: $378.40

Krugerrand: $377.00-379.00 (£237.00-239.00)

Platinum: $417.50 (£263.30) Silver: $4.72 (£2.965) Palladium: $157.90 (£99.60)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6948-2.7077	2.6948-2.6982	½-¼pr	1¼-¾pr
Brussels	49.59-49.85	49.59-49.69	7-2pr	20-12pr
Copenhagen	9.4960-9.5290	9.4960-9.5110	¾-¼pr	1¼-¾pr
Dublin	1.0085-1.0140	1.0099-1.0125	7-4pr	16-11pr
Frankfurt	2.4054-2.4149	2.4058-2.4090	½-¼pr	1-¾pr
Lisbon	248.50-249.85	248.52-249.16	51-58ds	200-219ds
Madrid	209.19-210.26	209.26-209.56	27-39ds	103-122ds
Milan	2543.30-2554.60	2543.30-2546.60	3-5ds	13-14ds
Montreal	2.2444-2.2590	2.2467-2.2498	0.23-0.31ds	0.49-0.62ds
New York	1.5880-1.5944	1.5880-1.5890	0.05-0.03pr	0.17-0.14pr
Oslo	10.5380-10.5810	10.5390-10.5550	1½-½pr	3¼-½pr
Paris	8.3390-8.3770	8.3440-8.3590	¾-¼pr	1¾-1¼pr
Stockholm	11.8340-11.9270	11.8340-11.8580	1-1½ds	3½-5ds
Tokyo	157.60-158.44	157.60-157.87	½-¼pr	1½-1¼pr
Vienna	16.89-17.00	16.89-16.93	2½-1½pr	7¼-5½pr
Zurich	2.0227-2.0329	2.0227-2.0257	½-¼pr	1⅝-1¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

Australia	1.3102-1.3111
Austria	10.65-10.66
Belgium (Com)	31.23-21.24
Canada	1.4136-1.4141
Denmark	5.9840-5.9870
France	5.2565-5.2575
Germany	1.5146-1.5150
Hong Kong	7.7330-7.7340
Ireland	1.5708-1.5718
Italy	1602.50-1603.50
Japan	99.28-99.33
Malaysia	2.5570-2.5580
Netherlands	1.6971-1.6976
Norway	6.6345-6.6375
Portugal	156.60-156.80
Singapore	1.4512-1.4522
Spain	131.74-131.79
Sweden	7.4527-7.4627
Switzerland	1.2725-1.2730

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5887-1.5913
Australia dollar	2.0831-2.0851
Bahrain dinar	0.5945-0.6065
Brazil real*	1.3503-1.3545
Cyprus pound	0.737-0.747
Finland markka	7.4925-7.6085
Greece drachma	372.75-379.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.2893-12.2947
India rupee	49.53-50.49
Kuwait dinar KD	0.471-0.481
Malaysia ringgit	4.0636-4.0665
Mexico peso	n/a
New Zealand dollar	2.4847-2.4877
Pakistan rupee	48.60 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.915-6.041
Singapore dollar	2.3062-2.3092
S Africa rand (fin)	6.4219-6.4579
S Africa rand (com)	5.6273-5.6332
U A E dirham	5.799-5.914

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	885	Legal & Gn	2,000
ASDA Gp	17,000	Lloyds Bk	2,700
Abbey Natl	2,900	MEPC	2,800
Allid Dom	3,300	Marks Spr	8,000
Argyll Gp	3,700	NatWst Bk	3,300
Arjo Wiggn	861	Nat Power	3,900
AB Foods	616	Nth Wst W	345
BAA	1,300	P & O	1,600
BAT Inds	3,900	Pearson	772
BOC	1,300	PowerGen	3,200
BP	9,200	Prudential	2,000
BTR	7,600	RMC	79
BT	8,600	RTZ	3,900
Bk of Scot	2,000	Rank Org	2,900
Barclays	8,600	Reckitt Col	2,300
Bass	1,400	Redland	868
Blue Circle	1,600	Reed Intl	1,200
Boots	1,300	Rentokil	303
Bowater	1,800	Reuters	2,500
Brit Aero	3,700	Rolls Royce	6,600
Brit Airwys	12,000	Ryl Ins	1,600
Brit Gas	10,000	Ryl Bk Scot	2,000
Brit Steel	10,000	Sainsbury	4,700
Burmah Cstl	820	Schroders	25
Cable Wire	11,000	Scot & New	1,000
Cadbury	6,200	Scot Power	498
Caradon	3,200	Sears	3,900
Carlton Cms	922	Svrn Trent	462
Cm Union	1,900	Shell Trans	2,700
Courtaulds	218	Siebe	1,200
De La Rue	111	SmKl Bch	2,800
Eastern Elec	290	Smith Nph	8,100
Enterpr Oil	1,000	Sthern Elec	289
Forte	1,400	Std Chartd	7,900
GKN	1,200	Sun Allnce	974
GRE	1,300	TI Gp	2,900
GUS	3,600	TSB	2,400
Gen Acc	1,100	Tesco	4,400
Gen Elec	5,400	Thames W	681
Glaxo	16,000	Thrn EMI	1,000
Granada	1,100	Tomkins	3,200
Grand Met	7,300	Unilever	2,800
Guinness	8,900	Utd Bisc	1,300
HSBC	4,200	Vodafone	4,400
Hanson	14,000	Warburg	1,200
ICI	1,100	Wellcome	11,000
Inchcape	3,600	Whitbread	1,000
Kingfisher	19,000	Wlms Hld	563
Ladbroke	7,000	Wolseley	312
Land Secs	1,100	Zeneca	887

	Jan 27 midday	Jan 26 close
AMP Inc	73½	73¾
AMR Corp	57½	57
AT & T	49¾	[illegible]
Abbott Labs	33½	33
Advanced Micro	29½	30¼
Aetna Life	49½	48½
Ahmanson (HF)	16½	16½
Air Prod & Chem	45½	45½
Albertson's	30	29½
Alcan Aluminium	25	25½
Alco Standard	65½	65½
Allied Signal	35½	36
Alum Co of Am	82½	84½
Amax Gold Inc	5½	5½
Amerada Hess	45½	46½
Amer Brands	37½	37½
Amer El Power	34½	34½
Amer Express	30	29½
Amer Genl Corp	28½	28½
Amer Home Pr	67½	67½
Amer Intl	102½	101¼
Amer Stores	24½	24½
Ameritech	43½	43½
Amoco	59½	59½
Anheuser-Busch	53½	53½
Apple Computer	39½	39½
Archer Daniels	19½	19½
Armco	6½	6½
Armstrong Wrld	46½	46½
Asarco	27½	28
Ashland Oil	33½	33
Atl Richfield	106½	107½
Auto Data Pro	58½	59½
Avery Dennison	36	36
Avon Products	57½	57½
Baker Hughes	18½	18½
Baltim Gas & El	23½	23½
Banc One	25½	25½
BankAmerica	43½	42½
Bank of NY	30½	30½
Bankers Tr NY	61¼	61½
Barnett Banks	42½	42½
Bausch & Lomb	31½	31½
Baxter Intl	28½	27½
Bectn Dickinsn	51½	51¼
Bell Atlantic	54½	54
BellSouth	58	57½
Black & Decker	24½	24½
Block (H&R)	34½	34½
Boeing	45½	45½
Boise Cascade	28½	28½
Borden Inc	13½	13½
Bristol Myrs Sq	59½	59½
Browning Ferris	30½	30½
Brunswick	20½	20½
Burlington Nthn	49½	50½
CBS	58½	58½
CNA Financial	68½	68½
CPC Intl	54	53½
CSX	73½	73½
Campbell Soup	41½	42
Can Pacific	13½	13½
Cpd Cities ABC	84	85
Carolina Pwr	28½	27½
Caterpillar	53½	53½
Central & SW	24½	23½
Champion Intl	39½	40
Chase Manhat	33½	33½
Chemical Bk	38½	37½
Chevron Corp	46	46½
Chrysler	45	44½
Chubb Corp	78½	78½
Cigna Corp	67½	67½
Citicorp	41½	40½
Clorox	57½	58½
Coastal Corp	27½	27½
Coca Cola	51½	51½
Colgate-Palmolive	60	59½
Columbia Gas	23½	23½
Compaq Comp	37½	37
Comp Ass Intl	50½	50½
Conagra	30½	30½
Conrail	52½	52
Cons Edison	25½	27½
Cons Nat Gas	34½	34½
Cooper Inds	38	39
Corning Inc	31½	31½
Crown Cork	39½	38½
Dana Corp	22½	23½
Dayton Hudson	69½	69½
Deere	71½	72½
Delta Air Lines	52½	52
Deluxe Corp	26½	27½
Detroit Edison	27½	27½
Digital Equip	31½	32
Dillard Dept St	26½	26½
Disney (Walt)	50½	47½
Dominion Res	37½	37½
Donnelley (RR)	30½	30½
Dover Corp	57½	57½
Dow Chemical	63½	64½
Dow Jones	33½	32½
Dresser	19½	19½
Duke Power	40½	39½
Dun & Bradstreet	49½	50
Du Pont	55	56
Eastman Kodak	48½	48½
Eaton Corp	47½	47½
Emerson Elec	63½	63½
Engelhard Corp	25	25½

	Jan 27 midday	Jan 26 close
Enron Corp	29½	29½
Entergy	23½	23½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	62½	63½
FMC Corp	59	58½
FPL Group	35½	35½
Federal Express	61½	61½
Fed Nat Mtge	72½	71½
First Chicago	47½	47½
First Interstate	73	72½
First Union Rlty	8	8½
Fleet Fin Grp	31½	31½
Fluor Corp	48½	47
Ford Motor	25½	25½
GTE Corp	33½	33½
Gannett	52½	51½
Gap Inc Del	32½	32½
Gen Dynamics	43½	43½
Gen Electric	50½	51
Gen Mills	57	56½
Gen Motors	37½	37½
Gen Reinsurance	126	124
Gen Signal	34	33½
Genuine Parts	37½	37½
Georgia Pac	75½	75½
Gillette	73	74½
Glaxo ADR	19½	19½
Goodrich (BF)	44	43½
Goodyear Tire	36½	36½
Grace (WR)	39½	40½
Gtr Atl Pac Tea	18½	18½
Great Wstn Fin	17½	17
Halliburton	36½	36½
Harcourt General	33½	33½
Heinz (HJ)	39½	39½
Hercules	117½	118½
Hershey Foods	49	49
Hewlett Packard	101½	101½
Hilton Hotels	65½	65½
Home Depot	47½	47½
Homestake Mng	15½	16½
Honeywell	34½	34½
Household Intl	40½	39½
Houston Inds	39½	38½
Humana	22½	22½
ITT Corp	89½	90
Illinois Tool	40½	40½
Illinova	22½	22½
INCO	28½	29
Ingersoll Rand	31½	32½
Inland Steel	30½	30½
Intel Corp	70½	70½
IBM	71	72½
Intl Flav & Fr	47½	47½
Intl Paper	74½	75½
James River Va	22½	21½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	56	56
Kellogg	55½	54½
Kerr-McGee	48	47½
Kimberly-Clark	48½	48
Kmart	14	13½
Knight-Ridder	53½	53½
Lilly (Eli)	64½	64½
Limited Inc	17½	17½
LIN Brdcstng	137½	137½
Lincoln Nat	35½	35½
Litton	36½	36½
Liz Claiborne	16½	16½
Lockheed	72½	73½
Louisiana Pac	27½	27½
MCI Comm	17½	17½
Marriott Int	29½	29½
Marsh & McLen	76½	76½
Masco Corp	23½	23½
May Dept St	35½	35
Maytag Corp	14½	14½
McDonalds	32	30½
McDonnell D	49½	48½
McGraw Hill	66	64½
Mead Corp	51½	52
Medtronic	59½	59½
Mellon Bk	35½	35
Melville Corp	31½	31½
Merck Inc	38½	38½
Merrill Lynch	35½	35½
Minnesota Mine	52½	52½
Mobil Corp	87½	86½
Monsanto	75½	75½
Morgan (JP)	61½	61½
Motorola Inc	60	60
Natl Medical	14	14
Natl Semi	18	18½
Natl Service Ind	26½	26½
Navistar Int	16	16
NBD Bancorp	29½	29½
NY Times A	21½	21½
Newmont Mng	34½	34½
Niag Mohawk	15	15½
Nike B	73½	72½
NL Industries	12	12
Noram Energy	5½	5½
Nordstrom	42½	42½
Norfolk Sthrn	63½	63½
Nthn State Pwr	45½	45½
Norwest Corp	24½	24½
Nynex Corp	38½	37½
Occidental Pet	20	20½
Ohio Edison	20	19½
Oracle Systems	42½	42½
Oryx Energy Co	10½	10½

	Jan 27 midday
Owens Corning	31½
PPG Industries	35½
PNC Bank	23½
Paccar Inc	44
Pacificorp	19½
Pac Enterprises	22½
Pac Gas & Elect	25½
Pac Telesis	29½
Pall Corp	19½
Panhandle East	20½
Parker Hannifin	47½
Peco Energy	26½
Penney (JC)	41½
Pennzoil	46½
Pepsico	36½
Pfizer	79½
Phelps Dodge	56½
Philip Morris	59½
Phillips Pet	32½
Pitney Bowes	31½
Polaroid	31
PriceCostco	14
Procter & Gmbl	63½
Providian	33½
Pub Serv E & G	28½
Quaker Oats	34½
Ralston Purina	45½
Raychem Corp	38½
Raytheon	65½
Reebok Intl	38½
Reynolds Metals	51½
Roadway Srves	51½
Rockwell Intl	38½
Rohm & Haas	55½
Royal Dutch	113½
Rubbermaid	25½
Safeco Corp	52½
St Paul's Cos	46½
Salomon Inc	38½
Santa Fe Pac	18½
Sara Lee Corp	25½
Scecorp	15½
Schering Plough	75½
Schlumberger	54
Scott Paper	70½
Seagram	29½
Sears Roebuck	45½
Shell Trans	68½
Sherwin Wllms	33½
Skyline Corp	17½
Snap-On-Tools	31½
Southern Co	20½
Sthwestern Bell	42½
Sprint Corp	27½
Stanley Works	38½
Sun Company	29
Sun Microsys	31½
Suntrust	52
Supervalu	23½
Sysco Corp	26½
TRW Inc	63½
TCC Inds	2½
Tandem Comp	17½
Tandy Corp	45½
Teledyne	22½
Temple Inland	47
Tenneco	43½
Texaco	61½
Texas Inst	69½
Texas Utilities	34
Textron	51½
Time Warner	35
Times-Mirror	32½
Timken	33½
Torchmark	39
Toys R Us	30
Transamerica	51
Travelers	35½
Tribune	53½
Tyco Labs	49½
UST Inc	29½
UAL	94
USX Marathon	16½
Unicom	25½
Unilever NV	118½
Union Camp	48½
Union Carbide	26½
Union Pacific	48
Unisys Corp	9
USAIR Group	5½
USF&G Corp	14½
US Life	34½
US West	38½
United Tech	65½
Unocal Corp	27½
Upjohn	32½
VF Corp	48½
WMX Tech	28
Wal-Mart Stores	22½
Warner-Lambert	74½
Wells Fargo	147½
Westinghouse El	13½
Weyerhaeuser	38½
Whirlpool	50½
Whitman	16½
Winn Dixie	54½
Woolworth	15½
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WEEKEND MONEY

HIGH PRICE 31

Punished for a crime she did not commit

Lottery syndicate puts out a contract

Liz Dolan says drawing up an agreement will prevent bad feeling among winning groups

Will it be your syndicate that scoops the National Lottery jackpot tonight? If so, how certain are you that the member who receives the cheque will not deny all knowledge of the syndicate's existence and quietly slip off to Rio?

What happens if some members are behind with their weekly contributions? Do they still get their share? What if the syndicate leader acknowledges the existence of the group, but suddenly demands a larger cut for doing all the work?

What about publicity? How will you feel if you are secretly opening a Swiss bank account and trying to pretend nothing has happened, while your more extrovert colleagues are buying champagne all round at the Savoy Grill and broadcasting their good fortune to the national press?

The syndicate route to riches sounds easy: pay up each week and, if the Big One comes up, share out the cash and crack open the Dom Perignon. But, it is amazing how people's attitudes can change when hundreds of thousands of pounds may be at stake.

Witness the experience of Gerry Konyn, a London cab driver, who last Saturday won the lottery jackpot twice, once as a member of a 17-strong syndicate, and once in his own right. His fellow syndicate members reportedly had mixed feelings, not least because the winning numbers had been chosen by another member of the group, and he had simply copied them on to his own ticket. Mr Konyn picked up more than £1.45 million, while the others had to make do with £80,600.

The solution, said Camelot, the lottery organiser, is to draw up a comprehensive agreement to cover all foreseeable points of conflict and get all members of the syndicate to sign it. Camelot said it does not know how much syndicates have won to date, but it is a fair bet that they account for a significant percentage of total prize money.

The most enthusiastic syndicates are to be found in the City, where groups of up to 400 people commonly pay £5 a head every week. The Lombard Street post office in the City takes more money than any other lottery outlet in Britain, although it is only open until 6 o'clock in the evenings, and is closed on Saturdays.

Some companies are so concerned about a mass walkout by staff who become millionaires overnight that they have taken out insurance to cover themselves. Since launching a lottery syndicates policy on January 12, Fielding Mann, a Leeds insurance broker, (0113 2390 330) has already signed up 20 firms who fear being left high and dry with important orders, servicing and billing left undone. The policy is marketed under the heading: "A syndicate win on the National Lottery could seriously damage your company's wealth". The first customer was the Lloyd's syndicate that underwrites the policy.

Sensible groups will draw up an agreement before buying the first ticket, with the date written clearly on the front. The agreement should include the names of all syndicate members, plus their signatures; the amount to be contributed each week; how any prize money should be divided; the name(s) of the member(s) who buy the tickets and claim any prizes; what should be done about late payers in any prize-winning week; what to do about publicity. Each member should retain a copy and the original should be stored in a safe place. Remember to record membership changes.

Camelot (0645 100000) has a free advice sheet for syndicates who wish to minimise misunderstandings.

JAMES MORGAN

Tea and sympathy: members of the Operational Research Department tea club at British Airways' head office have so far won just £10, with which they bought tea, coffee and biscuits

CASE ONE

Everything was sweetness and light at Garden Haig, a firm of solicitors in Edinburgh, when a 20-strong staff syndicate won £150,000 in the National Lottery just before Christmas.

Gordon Cairns, senior partner, admits that, despite its legal connections, the syndicate had seen no need to draw up a formal agreement.

"We still don't have a proper agreement," says Mr Cairns. "We just have this clause at the bottom of a list of members stating that any prize would be split between 20 people in equal proportions; and that's what we did."

Asked for his professional opinion on the matter, he says he would advise clients to draw up a proper agreement, witnessed and signed by an independent person. Though, he adds, "lawyers are their own worst clients".

Mr Cairns is the only solicitor in the firm to have joined the syndicate. The rest are receptionists, secretaries, cashiers and messengers. Seventeen are women. "They finally let me join two weeks before we won the prize." In spite of his late subscription, the prize cheque was made out to Mr Cairns.

When the news was announced, the whole firm was enjoying a pre-Christmas night out at a nearby hotel. Mr Cairns' secretary, who had been unable to join them, rang the hotel with the news and "there were suddenly 18 or 19 smiling faces among 80-odd staff".

There were no arguments about publicity. Since the big night, the group have become old media hands, appearing on Scottish TV and radio, as well as in local and national newspapers.

Forthcoming appearances include GMTV and another visit to STV. "It's a bit of fun," says Mr Cairns.

CASE TWO

Tonight will mark the fourth attempt by the 17 members of the Operational Research tea club at British Airways head office to win the Lottery jackpot.

Their chances are slimmer than most, given that they are not big spenders. They buy just one £1 ticket a week, costing little more than 5p a head.

"We have no money," explains Richard Hester, the syndicate leader. "But we've already won £10 — not bad for a £3 outlay." The £10 was spent on extra tea and coffee. "Oh, and a packet of malted milk chocolate cow biscuits."

The club's financial dealings are complex. "We buy coffee and tea and then sell it back to ourselves at 10p a cup." This finances the weekly lottery ticket, plus new supplies and "the Christmas booze club".

The syndicate has drawn up an agreement of sorts. It simply lists the names of the members, who agree to divide all winnings equally between 17 people. "It just says: The following 17 people have all contributed equally to the OR tea club lottery ticket and are each entitled to one-seventeenth of any winnings."

Two members have copies, just in case the person who collects the winning cheque denies that the syndicate ever existed. "It has a massive coffee stain on it, appropriately enough, and two people's names are spelt wrongly, but I think it's valid."

The agreement does not deal with publicity. "One or two people claim they wanted no publicity for winning 58.8p. You may have to disguise their faces in *The Times* pic."

Another problem is the unequal division of contributions. "Some people pay more because they drink more tea and coffee than others. Should they get a larger share of the winnings? What if they don't do tea club duties that week? God, you've got me thinking now."

Gentlemen's agreement: the Garden Haig syndicate shared £150,000 but has no contract

TAX POSITION

Fears that members of lottery syndicates may be landed with a big inheritance tax (IHT) bill on their winnings are misplaced, the Inland Revenue said.

It is true that, if you die of shock when your winning lottery number is read out, your heirs may have to pay tax on your prize. But it is not true that the same applies to syndicate members whose leader suffers the same fate.

Under IHT rules, recipients of "lifetime gifts" (assets, including cash, given to friends and relatives during the donor's lifetime) may have to pay tax if the donor dies within seven years of handing them over. Some lottery syndicate members are concerned that, if they win a big prize, they will have to pay IHT if the syndicate leader dies within seven years of handing over money to fellow members.

But, the Inland Revenue said this is not the case, so long as they can provide evidence of the existence of a prior agreement, verbal or written, that any prize was to be divided.

Unmarried couples who plan to share any lottery winnings between them would, however, be well advised to state their intentions clearly in advance. If they do not, and one of them dies within seven years of splitting any winnings, the surviving partner might be liable for IHT on their own share of the prize, depending on which one bought the original winning ticket. A formal agreement does not free them from having to pay tax on their partner's share if they subsequently inherit it. Married couples do not have to pay IHT on assets passed between them.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Why the market is spooked

ANTHONY HARRIS

Why does the market get weaker as the news gets better?" a querulous friend inquired. Good question. When the Footsie fell below 3000 a few weeks ago, everyone remarked how weak it was. But when it poked its nose above 3000 for a time on Thursday morning, people celebrated a return of strength — too soon. The attempted rally may have been a botched trial of contrarianism, for on Wednesday Barry Riley of the *FT* mused about whether the time had come to talk of bear markets. But he surmised that the market might recover if he did, on the ground that all the bad news was now out. In short, this market is spooked, and for the usual reason: uncertainty. Here are some of those uncertainties, with comments.

1. Earthquakes: The Kobe disaster has provoked contradictory hopes and fears: it could be good news for the Japanese economy: but even that could be bad news for the markets if the Japanese funds that make good the shortage of savings in New York and London decide to stay at home. And there could be worse earthquakes, which would be bad news for everyone. The only sensible response is to go liquid. Comment: Natural disasters can be stimulating: good news for weak economies, but bad, inflationary news in economies that are already stretched. Kobe could just be good news: Tokyo would be too much, and California still worse. But the fears about Japanese funds seem overdone: Kobe reconstruction will be financed by new bank lending, not portfolio switching.

2. The Mexico blues: Nerves after Mexico could starve the whole developing world of capital, as investors learn a sad truth: in an emergency, you cannot emerge from an emerging market. At worst, this could be a mirror image of the earthquake threat: bad news for the world economy, but deflationary this time; but possibly good news for New York and London, if more funds stay at home. Comment: These are worst-case fears; and worst cases make buying opportunities. The odds favour some kind of Mexico rescue.

3. Interest rates: The prospect of higher rates spooks the housing market, and provokes complaints from cost-cutting industrialists. The market wonders what high rates will do to profits, and uneasily remembers the 1987 crash, provoked by higher rates. Comment. All this is overdone. Talk of market "fears" of high rates is misleading: the markets *expect* them, and that is already in prices. The real uncertainty is about the inflation that provokes higher rates. Inflation is indeed likely to rise; but not far, by past standards. Rising competition and the feel-bad factor are still with us. Hence bonds have resisted the gloom.

4. Politics: Russia, Mexico, Turkey, South Africa, Italy, Sweden, and now Britain: not a list of the countries where the future is cloudy, but of some of the countries where the market is beginning to discount a change it will not like. All governments are facing dilemmas, especially about ageing populations. The era of free trade, market reforms and bull markets, all needing confident governments, may be over. Comment. The uncertainty is real, the dangers may be genuine, and the market reaction is probably overdone. The governments in danger would hardly be missed; and some countries, notably Italy, seem to do very well with none at all. Experience in London also shows that the political market rule is contrarian: sell on a Tory win, buy on Labour. Which underlines the real moral of this column: market blues mean that it is too late to sell, but not too early for judicious buying.

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Pru's pensioners deserve more than a bit-part

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Mick Newmarch has lumbered away from the Prudential, share option spoils over his shoulder, leaving behind several unanswered questions. For those who see the comings and goings at City institutions as *Brookside* in pinstripe (Big Mick being too bulky for a shell suit), the circumstances of his departure are the most intriguing mystery.

Does the share option deal hide a secret like the soap's Jordache patio, where the family's father lies buried? Or was his resignation simply a matter of life being too short for arguments with regulators?

For the Pru's personal-pension customers, the central unresolved issue is the Newmarch stance on the personal-pensions scandal. As those who watched every minute of the saga can attest, his loud insistence that the Pru was free from any stain of mis-selling was in marked contrast with the private admissions of other life company chief executives. They spoke of overzealous salesmen, of financial advisers more keen on commission than on finding out their clients' true needs. Seldom did these bosses mention the pressure put by management on these hapless intermediaries to maximise sales revenues, but the inference was there. No one was blameless.

Meanwhile, the Pru, the company with the largest number of personal-pension plan holders, was proclaiming its innocence in newspaper advertisements, a neat plot device. Mr Newmarch even remained combative when it emerged last summer that Lautro, the industry watchdog, was investigating the Pru's pension-transfer business.

Yesterday the Pru confirmed it was keeping faith with its former boss. There would be no sudden volte-face, no rush to make provisions against a possible compensation bill. The company continues to crouch behind its claim that its salesmen merely organised pensions and did not give advice.

But this version of events is soon to be tested. Before Christmas, the Pru's directors received Lautro's report which, it is said, puts forward another point on view on the conduct of the company's pensions transfer business. If the Pru really believes it does not have a case to answer, it should defend this argument in an open debate with the watchdog, with evidence from its salesmen and their clients.

Those who took a transfer into a Pru pension have for too long been the bit-part players in this story, their interests overlooked in the clash of egos entitled Big Mick against the Regulator Supremos. Now the central plot line must involve the key protagonists.

Mucked about

MINDFUL of their place in history, recent Chancellors have liked to devise an investment scheme for which they will be remembered with something like fondness.

During his time as Chancellor, Nigel Lawson dreamt up the personal equity plan. Peps may now hold as much as £20 billion worth of the nation's savings. In 1991, while in residence in Number 11, John Major introduced the tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa). These have attracted £21.3 billion. Obviously fearful that he would be remembered only as the man who put VAT on domestic fuel, Chancellor Clarke, short of any other ideas in his last Budget, decided to introduce a new type of Pep.

This would invest in corporate bonds and preference shares, previously prohibited. Simple and snappy, the Clarke Pep was on its way. Unfortunately, the journey from Treasury concept to realisation is proving embarrassingly longer than Mr Clarke could have imagined.

Weekend Money revealed a fortnight ago that the Revenue had yet to publish the detailed rules on which shares fund managers may buy. This document will now be further delayed. Some fund managers are predicting their Clarke Peps will not be ready for the start of the tax year. They are putting the blame on Mr Clarke's requirement that Pep money should support industry, not financial services. Bound by his Midlands background to muck, not brass, Mr Clarke is probably thankful the Budget papers specified the measure would take effect on April 6, or "as soon as possible thereafter".

Oh, and by the way...
you must have another look at the Inheritance Tax rule
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1988
GED

Personal pensions tax threat for 2.5m families

An Inland Revenue mix-up over inheritance tax is causing concern, reports **Jane Suiter**

An Inland Revenue rule mix-up may mean thousands of bereaved families will be liable to inheritance tax on benefits from personal pensions.

The rule affects the taxation of lump sums if a personal pension policyholder dies. Most life offices simply copied the Revenue's draft rules and did not double check them with lawyers.

As a result policyholders' families could end up paying millions in unnecessary inheritance tax — currently 40 per cent.

The Association of British Insurers has known of the problem since October of last year but did not write to all its members until this week.

The mistake is relatively simple for life offices to correct but the Capital Taxes Office at the Inland Revenue can demand retrospective payments from bereaved families.

The error came to light after the Capital Taxes Office informed a leading insurance company that one of its personal pensions would not escape inheritance tax.

Since 1988 personal pensions have been sold with the assurance they would be free from all tax.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue said: "If the policyholders can dictate where the benefit goes, it will form part of his estate. If a policy was written under these circumstances, we would review the value of the estate for inheritance tax."

To avoid inheritance tax, insurance companies must retain full discretion in paying out benefits after the death of a policyholder, he continued.

The Association of British Insurers said it believed this had never been the Revenue's intention and it came as a surprise to its members that the rule had been applied in this way.

The Association has written to the Revenue outlining its concerns but has not yet received a formal response. Lal Vohra, an independent tax consultant, said it was certain that the Capital Taxes Office's interpretation was correct.

Up to 90 per cent of the United Kingdom's life and pensions offices have used the Revenue's model rules, according to the Association of British Insurers. This means that all their death benefit payouts are potentially liable. A number of companies did spot the problem in 1992 including Clerical Medical and NPI.

Both companies retain full discretion over who beneifts from any payout. In addition, the policyholder has no right to set up or change a trust after the proposal stage.

The Revenue refused to confirm if this would avoid IHT liability but it seems likely to be enough.

Specialist pensions lawyer John Cunliffe, a partner at McKenna & Co, said: "Anyone who finds themselves liable to inheritance tax would have a strong case to go back to the life office for compensation."

According to figures from IS Cartwright, consulting actuary, 14 per cent of personal pension holders will die before they reach retirement at 65. With almost 18 million personal pensions in force this means up to 2.52 million families are potentially affected.

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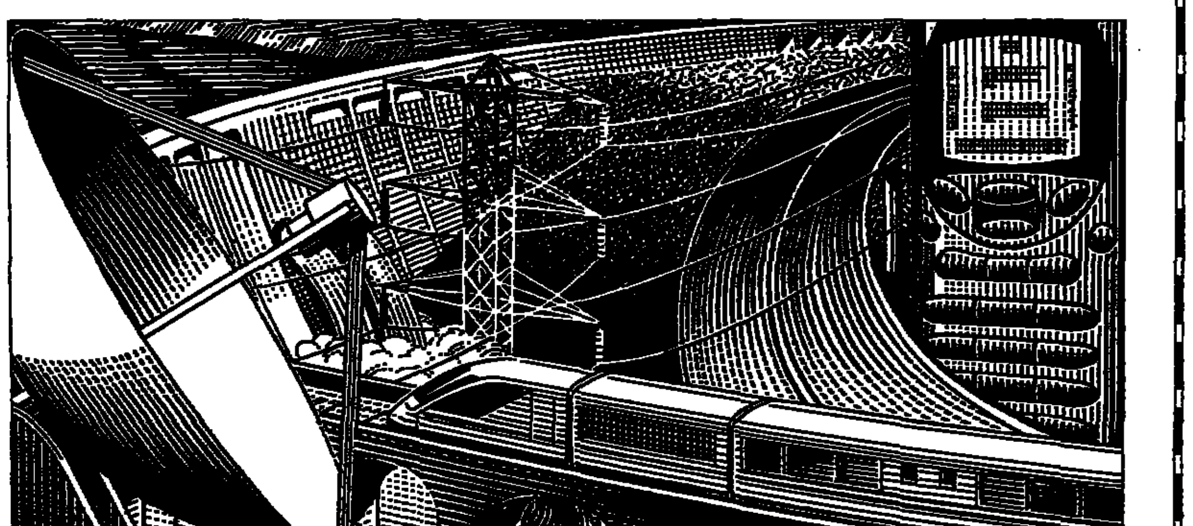

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Robert Miller meets a woman punished for a crime she did not commit

Woolwich fraud victim who paid the price

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Reason to regret being with the Woolwich: Denise Trickey, with her son Max, who was only four months old when eviction orders were served

Denise Trickey has every reason to be thankful that she took out a household contents insurance policy. Without it, she says she might well have been wrongfully imprisoned. As it is, she has been arrested, kept in police cells when two months pregnant, faced attempts to evict her from her house and has been made a bankrupt. Why?

Until February 26, 1993, Mrs Trickey worked as a customer services manager at the Lewisham, London, branch of the Woolwich, Britain's third largest building society, with assets of more than £25 billion. Before joining the Woolwich in January 1989, she worked at Barclays Bank.

In what an industrial tribunal later described as "an inside job", a "continuation" or duplicate passbook was issued illicitly on January 14, 1993, through a computer at the Woolwich's Lewisham branch for an existing account held in the name of a Mrs Wynn. It was issued by Till 99, which can be accessed by any personnel within the branch's "secure" area as well as a computer terminal outside the secure zone. In addition to strict computer security, the branch has two video cameras. Instead of the duplicate passbook being taken from the top of the pile in consequential sequence, it was apparently taken from the middle of the bundle. Furthermore, it was not recorded in a special register.

> Four months after my baby was born they started proceedings to evict me. I declared myself bankrupt

On January 15, Mrs Trickey received a telephone call from a woman saying she was Mrs Wynn, and wanted to withdraw £4,000 in cash from her account that day, a Friday. Mrs Trickey checked with a colleague that the branch would have sufficient funds and then confirmed to the customer that this would be in order. Later the same day, Mrs Wynn rang back and asked if she could come in on Saturday morning. She was told that large cash withdrawals were not permitted on a Saturday.

The following Monday, January 18, a woman claiming to be Mrs Wynn approached Mrs Trickey's desk to sign a withdrawal form for £4,500, instead of the £4,000 initially asked for. Mrs Trickey checked the signature and matched it with the one in the passbook. In her evidence to an industrial tribunal last July, where Mrs Trickey went to have her summary dismissal by the Woolwich declared unfair, she said that "Mrs Wynn" was "a grandmotherly figure" who told her she wanted the money to buy a car for her granddaughter's 18th birthday. The transaction was completed through a till, operated by a colleague of Mrs Trickey's, in the secure area. The cash was put in an envelope and came directly from the branch safe.

On January 21, the real Mr and Mrs Wynn called at the branch to deal with the account. It was only then that the earlier withdrawal by the "grandmotherly" Mrs Wynn came to light. The Woolwich ordered an investigation to be carried out by Bill Harrison, assistant manager of group security.

Mr Harrison began by viewing one of the security videos for January 18. Mrs Trickey was unable to identify anyone answering the description of the alleged Mrs Wynn at the time of the withdrawal. The industrial tribunal stated that Mr Harrison found it "inconceivable" that a person could enter and leave the branch without at any stage being seen and recorded by the video.

The tribunal chairman stated: "The applicant [Mrs Trickey] had dealt with the withdrawal on behalf of the 'customer', Mrs Wynn. No such 'customer' was seen on the video recording. Suspicion immediately fell on the applicant and she was suspended."

That was in January 1993. Mrs Trickey admitted that she had breached society procedures by conducting unrelated transactions on her own account and those of her family. But she noted that this was common practice among staff and neither constituted a dismissible offence nor involved theft or fraud of funds. She also confirmed that she and her husband owed about £20,000 in loans, mostly to the Woolwich. She denied any fraud.

In a letter dated February 24, 1993, before Mrs Trickey had a chance to seek proper legal representation, Clare Quigley, Regional Personnel & Training Adviser at the Woolwich, wrote: "After carefully considering all the available information, it has been decided that you are to be summarily dismissed without notice in accordance with Stage 3 of the society's disciplinary procedure. As you are aware, the Society has undertaken comprehensive investigations into this case. The reason for taking this action is that you have knowingly breached Society procedures with regard to conducting transactions on both your own and other accounts, you failed to adhere to the correct procedure for large cash withdrawals and our investigations implicate you heavily in the fraudulent withdrawal of £4,500."

On March 29, Mrs Trickey received a note from the local police station inviting her in for a "chat". When she went to the station, she was arrested, taken to the cells and detained for more than three hours. Mrs Trickey explained to the officers that she was two months pregnant and was very distressed. "They sympathised but said the Woolwich had provided information alleging I had committed a fraud," said Mrs Trickey, adding: "It was a most harrowing and humiliating experience. On a practical level, the duty solicitor at the station advised me to check my home contents insurance policy because some of them contained legal cover for cases such as unfair dismissal. Luckily, mine did." Mrs Trickey contacted Chris Elliott, of Woolsey Morris & Kennedy, the solicitor who took her case to the tribunal. After a four-day hearing last July the tribunal decided unanimously that Mrs Trickey had been unfairly dismissed. The Woolwich's procedures and approach were fiercely criticised by the tribunal, which found:

☐ The Woolwich's Mr Harrison, in conducting three separate interviews with Mrs Trickey, turned off the tape recorder from time to time and asked his female assistant, who sat in on the interviews, to leave them at certain times.

☐ It is clear from Mr Harrison's report that "in the absence of a Mrs Wynn on the video on January 18, Mr Harrison was immediately convinced that the applicant had been involved in the fraud". But it was proved that it was possible to enter and exit the branch without being filmed.

☐ Mr Harrison did not fully investigate the whereabouts of all the branch's paperwork for January 14, which went missing. Nor did he obtain reports or statements from staff.

☐ A full and proper investigation should have been made. Mr Harrison's object was to "dig up muck" against Mrs Trickey and he relied on "circumstantial evidence".

☐ Mrs Trickey was not sent a copy of Mr Harrison's report. This contained the "evidence" against her and was relied on by the Woolwich Management in deciding to dismiss.

☐ Last November 23, the tribunal, in its ruling, expressed "extreme concern" about the "inadequate investigation". The admitted breaches of procedure by Mrs Trickey did not justify dismissal: the parties were ordered to try to reach a compensation agreement.

However, Mrs Trickey will not receive that compensation personally because she is now bankrupt. She says: "The strain of the dismissal, the loss of income and the society insisting that I kept up with my mortgage and loan repayments at an unreasonable monthly payment level were just too much. Four months after my baby was born they started proceedings to evict me. I went off on my own and had myself declared bankrupt. I should have sought advice but I couldn't think straight. Even now, when the Woolwich knows I am bankrupt, they are still pursuing me. They obtained a debt judgment at Northampton County Court on January 18 this year."

The Woolwich said: "No stress was put on Mrs Trickey. We do hold our hands up about the disciplinary procedure which doesn't show us up in a good light. This has now been reviewed and revised. We were told we had good grounds for an appeal against the tribunal's decision but decided against it on the grounds of management time and legal costs."

[illegible]

☐ A new travel policy for over-55s from Age Concern Insurance Services carries no age-related penalties. There is a 10 per cent discount for couples, or groups of more than 10, travelling for more than 31 days, and a 20 per cent discount if baggage and personal effects are excluded. Worldwide cover costs £43.35 for 24 days, or £61.70 for 31 days. Seventeen days on the Continent costs £15.30 or, for 31 days, £24.30.

☐ Tipton & Coseley Building Society has launched a three-year fixed-rate mortgage at 7.79 per cent on 85 per cent loans, or 7.99 per cent for 95 per cent loans. One-year discounts range between 2.99 per cent and 3.99 per cent. The Bank of Scotland Centrebank Division offers five-year fixes between 9.75 per cent and 9.95 per cent, three-year fixes between 8.95 per cent and 9.45 per cent and, for one year, 5.99 per cent to 7.99 per cent.

☐ The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, founded by Sir Peter Scott in 1946, is the beneficiary of a new Visa affinity card, issued by the Beneficial Bank, a subsidiary of the US financial services group, Beneficial. Donations will be made to the WWT for each successful card application and each time the credit card is used. There is no annual fee for the card, which incorporates a photograph of a family of Bewick's swans. The APR is 18.9 per cent.

☐ A free school-fees guide from Royal Insurance considers the issues involved and suggests investment options. Available from 0151 239 3188.

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REF: [illegible]

Full Name Mr/Mrs/Miss (First Applicant) ______ Date of Birth ______
Full Name Mr/Mrs/Miss (Second Applicant) ______ Date of Birth ______
Address (First Applicant) ______
Post Code ______ Are you an existing Co-operative Bank customer? Yes/No
Amount investing £______ Cheque No: ☐☐☐☐☐☐
Account No: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ you wish to be credited.
Sort code: ☐☐☐☐☐☐
I/We authorise you to act on the signature(s) of either/both of us and to open a Guaranteed Investment Bond. All the information provided here is correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

TERM OF BOND	MONTHLY INCOME OPTION		PLEASE TICK	ON MATURITY		PLEASE TICK
	NET	GROSS		NET	GROSS	
6 MONTHS	—	—	—	4.78	6.37	
1 YEAR	5.25	7.00		5.44	7.25	
2 YEARS	5.81	7.75		6.38	8.50	
3 YEARS	6.19	8.25		6.94	9.25	

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF TERM

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TIM 28/1

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Keeping the rate rise secret safe

Halifax savers will have to wait until the very last minute to find out how much more interest they will be receiving from next Wednesday. *A spokesman said yesterday* that the new rates will not be announced until the first two days of next week.

Earlier this month, Britain's biggest building society revealed that saving rates would be going up on February 1, the date on which a 0.25 per cent increase in its variable mortgage rate comes into effect.

The Halifax is not alone in its eleventh-hour approach. Several other societies planning to raise mortgage rates from next week have yet to announce their new savings rates. The Leeds, whose borrowers also face a rate rise on Wednesday, looks likely to announce its new savings rates on Tuesday. But it would give no details yesterday.

The Woolwich says that an increase is "under consideration" and the exact amount will probably be announced next week. Why the delay? "It's a question of judging the market."

No news yet of higher savings rates from Alliance & Leicester, despite a 0.3 per cent rise to 8.4 per cent in the rate for new borrowers from last Wednesday, January 25. Existing A&L borrowers start to feel the pain from Thursday.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester will not be increasing its rates — but then it has no plans to raise its mortgage rate either. "We want to do our best for our borrowers," says Andrew Longhurst, chief executive.

Maybe he feels that borrowers deserve a break after missing out on the *Lloyds/C&G merger bonus* when the shareholders' rules were reinterpreted earlier this year.

Abbey National alone has actually bitten the bullet. Not only has the bank-née-building *society announced higher* savings rates from February 1, it has also managed to decide what those rates will be.

Second edition Tessa rates will rise from the current 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent range to *between 6.7 per cent and 7.2* per cent, depending on the amount invested.

Rates on the investment account are up from 3.38-4.54 per cent to 3.45-4.58 per cent, net of tax. The regular savers *account (including bonus)* will pay 3-5.14 per cent net, compared with 2.78-4.99 per cent.

LIZ DOLAN

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	5.95	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.10	Yly
Britannia BS 01538 391741	Capital Trust	Postal	£10,000	6.35	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.90	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest paid
Halifax BS 01422 333333	Guaranteed Res	2yr bond	£2,000	8.10	F/Yly
Britannia BS 0800 269655	3 year Fixed	3yr bond	£2,000	8.75	F/Yly
Cooperative Bank 0800 125100	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£2,000	9.25	OM
Bristol & West BS 01179 294271	Fixed Rate Bond	5yr bond	£5,000	8.70	F/Mly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest paid
Britannia BS 0800 269655	5 year	£8,200	9.25	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 01455 251234	5 year	£3,000 A	7.50	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716	5 year	£1	7.40	Yly
Tipton & Coseley BS 0121 557 2551	5 year	£1	7.35	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 01702 349393	MasterCard	1.25%	16.00	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90	£10 E

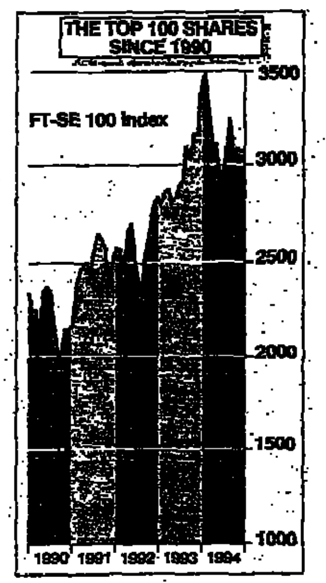
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

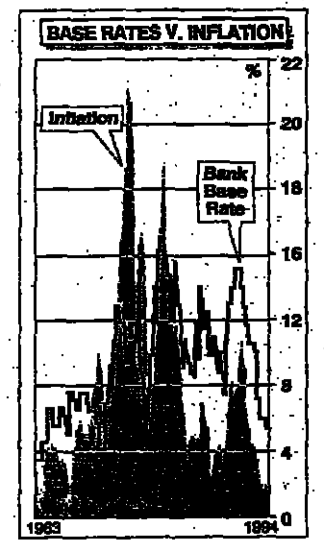
	APR%	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Bank (NI) 01232 245277	13.60	£114.27	£100.83
Midland Bank 01345 180180	15.40	£116.54	£103.14
Abbey National 01908 680140	15.90	£115.81	£103.77
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20	£113.94	£103.33

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 665)





	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		010416494555
Investment A/c*	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	010416494555
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	010253766151
First Opt Bond	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		010416362558
42nd Issue Cert†	5.85			100-10,000	8day	010913864900
Yearly Plan†	5.85			20-400/mth	14day	010913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	010416362835
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	010416362603
8th Index Linked†	3.00			100-10,000	8day	010913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000	60day	010253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years 0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ £40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings Taxable but cred in full

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Can Life ......Level	£10,744	£11,894	£13,455
Royal Life ......Level	£10,612	£11,737	£13,264
Stan Life......Level	£10,688	£11,732	£13,100
Prudential......Level	£10,653	£11,660	£13,017
Equit Life......Level	£10,599	£11,645	£12,984

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Can Life ......Level	£9,931	£10,750	£11,960
Royal Life ......Level	£9,884	£10,705	£11,923
Prudential......Level	£9,908	£10,630	£11,694
Stan Life......Level	£9,692	£10,484	£11,600
Equitable ......Level	£9,554	£10,375	£11,507

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Royal Life ......Level	£9,437	£10,664	£10,967
Can Life ......Level	£9,530	£10,169	£11,083
Prudential......Level	£9,525	£10,083	£10,869
Stan Life ......Level	£9,284	£9,896	£10,748
Equitable......Level	£9,162	£9,787	£10,644

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 375 1175)

Compiled by: Joanna Durowse

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Company	1yr %	2yr %	3yr %	4yr %	5yr %	Minimum Investment
Abbey Life¹	—	—	—	—	5.90	£3,000
Abbey Life¹	—	—	—	—	*6.30*	*£25,000*
AIG Life	6.05	6.70	6.40	—	—	£5,000
AIG Life²	6.40	7.10	6.80	—	—	£50,000
Consolidated Life³	*6.00*	*6.65*	*6.95*	*7.05*	*7.15*	*£2,000*
Gan Life & Pension⁴	4.10	5.50	5.90	6.10	6.20	£5,000
Gan Life & Pension⁴	5.60	6.30	6.50	6.60	6.70	£50,000
Nat West Life⁵	—	*5.20*	*6.05*	*6.35*	*6.65*	*£5,000*
Premium Life⁶	4.00	5.50	6.40	6.70	7.00	£1,000
Reliance Mutual¹	—	—	—	—	5.30	£5,000
Reliance Mutual¹	—	—	—	—	*5.60*	*£25,000*

¹ Income only: ² Growth & monthly income at lower rates: ³ 7 years 7.50%: ⁴ Monthly income at lower rates: ⁵ Details obtainable from Nat West Life 01272 404090: ⁶ Monthly income from £10,000 0—10 years 7.00%

TSB shares surge

SHARES in TSB were on the *move this week, leaving many* people, including the bank itself, with no clear idea about what was going on.

Talk emerged of a mystery bidder, with the names in the frame including the Banque *Nationale de Paris and* Dresdner Bank. Later, the thinking reversed and there was speculation about a possible buyer for Hill Samuel, the problematic merchant bank that TSB has been trying to sell off for years.

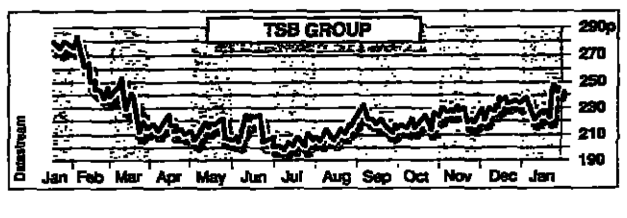
The shares surged 16p to close at 248p on Wednesday, near their year's high. They slipped back the next day to 242p, but were on the move *again yesterday, adding 1p to* 243p. TSB denied knowing why and Dresdner Bank denied having a shopping list of British banks.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	88.25	10.619	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	112.25	10.356	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	124.50	10.442	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	126.00	10.615	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	122.50	10.612	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	115.00	10.217	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	113.50	10.669	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	101.25	11.605	100.25	10,000
Halifax	*8.750%*	*86.50*	*10.116*	*100.62*	*50,000*
Halifax	12.000%	118.00	10.169	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	134.00	10.168	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	125.50	10.657	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	100.63	10.683	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	119.25	10.587	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	119.75	10.543	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	119.75	10.752	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	8.9875%	101.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	8.8854%	102.75	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: Hoare Govett - 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bradford & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£15k+	75	5.3% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	3.15	£40k+	80	5.29% discount to 2.1.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.3.96
Banks				
Lloyds Local branch	3.35	£60k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year
NatWest Home Loans 0121 234 8013	3.35	£120k+	75	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley & Rugby 01455 251234	1.50	to £150k	60	Rate fixed to 1.11.95
Skipton 0800 590545	1.89	to £250k	95	6% disc-6 mnths 2% disc-1 year
Yorkshire 01274 740740	1.70	£25-£150k	95	Rate fixed to 1.10.95
Banks				
Bank of Scotland 0131 523 7087	2.99	£30-£200k	95	Rate fixed for 6 months
HYPO - MSL 01344 3934000	2.90	£15,001-£500k	90	Rate fixed to 1.3.96

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Ntnl & Prvncl 0800 808080	1.75	neg	90	Rate fixed to 1.10.95
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.75	£35-£150k	95	6.89% discount for 6 months
Skipton 0800 590545	1.89	to £150k	95	6%-6 months then 2% for 1 year
Banks				
B of Ireland 01734 510510	4.40	£30-£80k	95	After 4.10% disc to 1.2.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.35	£60K+	95	4.75% discount for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE *Aegon House, Lamark Square, London E14 9XS 071 538 8880*				
Balanced	442.50	468.30	- 1.90	...
UK Equity	554.20	586.50	+ 0.80	...
Property	485.50	513.80	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Interest	308.40	326.40	- 1.00	...
Money	252.30	267.00	+ 0.10	...
International	359.50	380.50	- 9.80	...
ABBEY LIFE *Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373*				
Property Fd Inc	279.00	293.70	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc	527.10	554.90	+ 1.10	...
Equity Fd Inc	159.90	168.40	- 1.10	0.0
-do- Acc	213.20	224.50	- 1.60	0.0
Selective Fd	480.40	505.70	- 0.10	0.0
Money Fd	379.60	399.60	+ 0.40	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	411.00	432.70	+ 0.80	...
Equity Ser 4	*207.10*	*218.00*	*- 1.00*	..
Man Ser 4	638.70	672.40	- 5.50	0.0
Conv Ser 4	330.10	347.50	+ 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	329.80	347.20	- 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	342.70	358.70	+ 1.50	0.0
American Ser 4	468.60	493.30	- 4.90	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	650.70	685.00	- 4.10	0.0
Indexed Inv Ser 4	207.00	217.90	- 0.70	0.0
Japan Ser 4	335.30	353.00	- 9.40	0.0
ALBANY LIFE *3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 0707 42311*				
Equity Fd Acc	£14.65	£15.42	- 8.90	..
European Fd Acc	352.20	370.70	- 1.60	..
Fixed Int Acc	493.90	519.80	+ 1.10	..
Gtd Money Acc	336.30	353.40	+ 0.20	..
Intl Managed Acc	368.70	388.60	- 7.40	..
Int Fxd Int Acc	313.20	329.60	- 0.60	..
Japan Fund	251.40	263.50	-16.50	.
N American Acc	306.80	322.90	- 2.00	...
Prop Fd Acc	446.20	469.60	+ 0.40	...
Multiple Inv Acc	978.80	£10.30	- 8.30	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE *Swindon SN1 1EL 0793 514514*				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	374.30	394.00	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	£13.34	£14.04	-11.30	...
Property Acc	583.80	614.60	+ 0.30	...
Far East Acc	284.50	299.50	- 6.00	...
Managed Capital	504.90	531.50	- 3.60	.
-do- Acc	£10.38	£10.93	- 7.10	.
Overseas Acc	884.90	931.50	- 5.40	..
Gilt Edged Acc	473.40	498.40	- 1.50	...
Amer Equity Acc	736.80	775.60	...	
Amer Man Acc	315.10	331.70	- 0.10	.
Amer Prop Acc	*114.80*	*120.90*	*- 0.50*	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE *Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 0494 463463*				
Reserve Ser 6	157.30	165.50	- 0.30	..
Balced Ser 6	*681.50*	*717.30*	*- 0.90*	...
Opportunity Ser 6	152.50	160.50	- 0.60	.
Distribution Ser 6	98.00	103.10	- 0.10	6.98
UK Equities Ser 6	926.00	974.70	- 0.40	.
Higher Inc Ser 6	979.20	£10.31	- 5.30	
North Amer Ser 6	425.30	447.50	- 3.20	
Far East Ser 6	520.50	547.90	- 6.30	...
Europe Ser 6	349.90	368.30	- 2.80	..
Intnl Ser 6	*521.90*	*549.30*	*- 5.40*	...
Property Ser 6	579.40	609.50	+ 0.90	
Fixed Int Ser 6	427.40	449.80	+ 1.30	..
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	176.70	186.00	+ 0.40	.
Gteed Dep Ser 6	*297.60*	*313.20*	*+ 0.30*	..
BARCLAYS LIFE *252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 081 534 5544*				
Equity Acc	799.30	841.40	- 2.10	
-do- Initial	534.90	562.60	- 3.00	..
Gilt Edged Acc	372.00	391.60	+ 1.30	...
-do- Initial	246.50	259.90	+ 0.10	...
International Acc	376.30	396.10	- 5.40	
-do- Initial	247.60	260.70	- 4.40	...
Managed Acc	498.80	525.10	- 2.60	..
-do- Initial	329.50	346.90	- 2.20	..
Money Acc	292.40	307.80	+ 0.20	.
Property Acc	306.80	323.00	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	201.80	212.50	+ 0.10	
America Acc	259.80	273.50	- 3.00	.
Australia Acc	200.00	210.60	- 3.90	...
Financial Acc	307.70	323.90	+ 1.20	..
500 Accum	*419.30*	*441.40*	*- 3.40*	..
Japan Genl Acc	317.40	334.20	-14.60	..
Income Acc	489.00	514.80	- 4.30	
Leisure Acc	217.80	229.30	+ 0.30	.
Special Sits Acc	223.60	235.40	+ 2.40	...
Unly Tech Acc	146.90	154.60	- 3.10	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE *Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000*				
The Managed Fd	764.10	764.10	-12.54	...
Income Fund	736.19	774.94	- 7.78	...
Extra Income	666.28	701.35	- 6.98	.
Worldwide Gth	455.17	479.13	-12.90	...
Balanced Fund	634.07	667.45	- 6.45	..
Smllr Cos Recov	661.45	696.27	- 4.69	..
N Amer & Genl	331.74	349.20	- 8.44	..
Pacific Basin	358.14	376.99	-25.70	..
German Growth	226.86	238.80	- 5.40	.
Japan Growth	*168.16*	*177.02*	*- 9.10*	..
The UK Gth Fd	200.15	210.69	- 1.71	..
Contl Euro Gth	125.91	132.54	- 2.71	.
Property Fund	413.74	435.52	+ 0.65	...
Fixed Interest	*296.08*	*311.67*	*- 0.64*	...
Cash Fund	284.34	299.31	- 0.15	.
Managed Inv	462.69	487.05	- 8.04	..
Nth Amer Recov	221.72	233.39	- 8.40	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	484.61	510.12	- 8.84	..
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE *PO Box 31, Greenock, Renfrewshire 0475 888000*				
Measured Perf	151.50	160.30	- 2.00	...
Performance Plus	148.30	156.90	- 3.80	.
With Profit Perf	172.90	182.70	+ 0.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	168.40	178.10	- 0.80	...
Euro Opportunity	*215.70*	*228.20*	*- 1.20*	..
North Amer Opp	157.10	166.20	- 3.80	...
Far East Opp	168.10	177.80	- 3.50	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	126.30	133.00	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	*183.40*	*194.00*	*+ 0.60*	...
Fixed Int	182.60	193.20	+ 0.10	...
Cash	157.20	166.30	+ 0.10	...
Overseas	170.90	180.80	- 4.40	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	312.90	329.40	- 5.90	...
UK Equity	519.70	547.10	- 2.30	...
Property	285.60	300.70	-15.90	...
Money Market	*253.10*	*266.50*	*+ 0.20*	...
Fixed Interest	295.60	311.20	- 4.00	...
Japan	348.50	366.90	- 9.80	..
North America	142.90	150.50	- 3.30	...
International	*270.60*	*284.90*	*-11.30*	...
European	278.10	292.80	- 3.40	...
Far East	117.90	124.20	- 1.40	...
CANADA LIFE *2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 0707 51122*				
Equity Growth	£271.80	...	...	..
Managed	311.70	328.20	- 3.80	...
Property	237.30	249.80	- 0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	234.60	247.00	+ 0.70	.
Equity	345.60	363.80	- 3.90	..
Cash	217.70	229.20	+ 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	355.70	374.50	- 5.40	.
CLife Intl Fd	332.10	349.60	- 9.60	.
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE *Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 0908 606101*				
Property Fund	175.70	185.00	...	...
Managed Fund	564.50	594.30	- 9.90	..
Equity Fund	322.50	339.50	- 4.90	
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS *Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566*				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	271.20	285.50	- 1.50	.
Ruby	161.40	169.90	- 0.40	..
Emerald	141.50	149.00	- 0.20	..
Equity	309.30	325.60	- 2.20	..
Property	231.50	243.70	.	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	195.90	206.30	- 0.30	.
Indexed Secs	162.90	171.50	- 0.40	..
Cash	189.00	197.90	+ 0.20	.
Nth American	209.50	220.60	- 3.00	..
Far East	*284.70*	*299.70*	*- 2.80*	.
International	224.70	236.60	- 1.60	.
Special Sits	310.80	327.20	+ 0.70	...
Intl Income	275.20	289.70	- 2.00	..
American Inc	*182.70*	*192.40*	*- 0.60*	..
European	305.70	321.90	- 1.70	.
Japanese	137.00	144.30	- 0.80	...
SE Asia	314.30	330.90	- 2.00	..
With Profits Reg	*166.10*	174.90	+ 0.10	..
-do- Spec	166.10	174.90	+ 0.10	..
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	301.30	317.20	- 2.10	...
Equity	*359.20*	*378.30*	*- 0.70*	..
Property	214.70	226.10	+ 0.20	
Gilt & Fixed Int	243.80	256.70	- 0.40	...
Index Linked	172.40	181.50	- 0.30	.
Cash	251.70	265.00	+ 0.20	..
Nth American	252.50	265.80	- 3.80	..
Far East Acc	287.40	302.60	- 5.10	..
International Acc	278.50	293.20	- 5.20	..
Special Sits	*443.10*	*466.50*	*- 5.60*	...
European Flex	417.40	439.90	- 6.30	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP *Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 0634 890 000*				
(Units) Key	£210.40		.	...
-do- Pacemaker	£302.52		...	...
-do- Cash	203.92	214.65	- 0.11	...
-do- Equity	510.52	537.39	- 3.39	..
-do- Fxd Int	346.45	364.68	+ 2.49	..
-do- Managed	367.79	387.14	- 1.40	
-do- Property	293.30	308.77	- 1.35	.
(Pens) Cash Cap	208.08	219.05	...	.
-do- Cash Inv	305.77	321.88		.
-do- Equity Cap	£13.39	£14.09	...	...
-do- Equity Inv	£19.67	£20.71	.	.
-do- Fixed Cap	376.04	395.84	.	.
-do- Fixed Inv	562.58	591.67	.	...
-do- Index Cap	194.34	204.57		..
-do- Index Inv	285.57	300.61	.	...
Mngd Cap	535.84	564.05	.	...
Mngd Inv	*787.39*	*828.85*	...	...
COMMERCIAL UNION *St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3. 071 283 7500*				
Var Ann Acc (5)	£647.75	..	-20.69	
Var Ann (5)	185.87	..	- 2.20	.
Prime Managed	380.10	400.20	- 1.90	.
Prime UK Equity	458.00	482.20	- 0.60	.
Prime Intl Equity	281.20	296.00	- 5.00	..
Prime Property	253.50	266.90	- 0.10	..
Prime Fxd Int	225.30	237.20	+ 0.50	...
Prime Index-Lnk	165.30	174.10	+ 0.20	.
Prime Cash	206.60	217.50	+ 0.10	..
CONFEDERATION LIFE *Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 0438 744840*				
Managed Fund	£11.07	£11.66	..	0.0
Equity Fund	£15.97	£16.81	+ 4.00	...
CROWN FINANCIAL *Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 0483 715033*				
Life Mangd Acc	564.70	594.40	- 4.00	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	*362.60*	*381.60*	*+ 1.30*	..
Life Equity Acc	789.20	829.60	- 3.00	..
Life Money Acc	302.30	318.20	+ 0.10	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	753.40	793.00	-14.20	...
Life Intl Acc	*466.50*	*491.00*	*- 8.20*	.
Life High Inc Acc	763.40	803.50	- 4.10	..
Life Property Acc	260.20	273.80	+ 0.20	.
Crown Bdg Inv A	£13.10	...	...	.
Brewin Equity	643.20	677.00	-10.50	...

The Pensions Bill lottery

f you expect to receive a pension when you retire either from the state or from your employ- both, you will be directly affected roposals contained in the Pen- Bill, a huge and complex piece gislation which started its seceading in the House of Lords veek (Sara McConnell writes). controversial Bill was intended to en up the occupational pen- regime after pensioners lost £450 ion at the hands of the late ert Maxwell. But now there are is that many people, particular- vomen, will be penalised by its pro- ions for equalising state sions at 65 and making other nges to state pensions. The l's many critics say it will also not enough to protect members of mpany pensions. So will you be a inner or a loser when the shape f the new laws becomes clear? Or ill the clauses which penalise or avour you never see the light of day on the statute book?

Losers: outrage over the £450 million losses of pensioners in the Maxwell companies prompted the new legislation

LOSERS

Women under 40 will have to work an extra five years for a state pension because the Bill will equalise it at 65 for men and women. Women aged 40-45 will also have to wait between one and five years longer for their pension because the measure is being phased in over a 10-year period from 2010-2020. If you work and have not opted *out of the state earnings related* pension scheme (Serps), you will get less in real terms when you work five more years as pensions are calculated *as a proportion of lifetime* earnings and will be averaged over an extra five years.

***Statute* book (*SB*) rating** — *very likely.*

■ Part timers. There are 6 million part timers, of which 5 million are women. A European Court judgment last September *ruled part timers* barred from their employer's pension scheme who could prove sex discrimination would have the right *to join. It also ruled* part timers could make retrospective claims to 1976. The European Court is leaving it to individual countries to decide which national legislation they will use to implement the ruling. *The Pensions Bill* says claims will be dealt with under the Equal Pay Act. This gives people six months to claim but limits retrospective claims to two years. The parts of the Bill dealing with this will be implemented immediately after Royal Assent, probably this summer. Claims will be dealt with by industrial tribunals. But if you get your claim dealt *with before Royal Assent, you* might get a better deal.

SB rating — *likely but controversial. May be challenged.*

■ *Divorced or divorcing couples.* There are no plans in the Bill to deal with splitting a pension. At the moment, English courts have the power to take *the pension into consideration* when deciding a divorce settlement but no powers to order it to be split. Different *rules apply in Scotland.*

SB rating — *definitely none.*

■ Members of company schemes paying benefits based on salary but which are not "contracted in" to Serps. After *April 1997, your employer will* no longer have to pay you a guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) to replace benefits you would have got from Serps. Instead it *must show it can pay* a pension "broadly equivalent" to that under a GMP. But any pension rights earned after 1997 will not be fully indexed if inflation rises at more than 5 per cent a year.

SB rating — *very likely but controversial.*

■ Employees of companies without good internal democracy. Employers will in theory have to make sure at least one third of the scheme's trustees are nominated by members, rather than the employer.

SB rating — *likely but controversial.*

WINNERS

There will be some winners but many losers if the Pensions Bill is implemented in roughly its present form. The Bill will put in place a *number* of protective measures for members of occupational schemes, which, although feebler than many people would like, are still a *vast improvement* on the almost non-existent protection now. The measures will be put in place in April 1997.

■ Scheme members with complaints: You will have the right to expect a scheme to have formal arrangements for hearing and acting on complaints within certain time limits. This should speed up the time it takes to resolve complaints (about transfer values, tracing lost benefits and so on) which you may now have to take to the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service or the Pensions Ombudsman.

SB rating — *very likely.*

■ Members of schemes *whose insolvent employers* have either stolen from the pension fund or defrauded the members: For the first time you will have a call on a *compensation scheme* that will be funded by the pensions *industry. The scheme will pay* out up to 90 per cent of a loss arising from fraud or deliberate *misappropriation.* If your pension is based on salary, *enough compensation will be* paid to make your scheme 90 per cent solvent.

SB rating — very likely.

■ Members of schemes with dishonest trustees: For the first time, trustees can be suspended, *disqualified, fined* or imprisoned if they do not carry out their duties properly. Schemes will have to have an auditor and an actuary who will be *expected to report any* wrongdoing to the pensions regulator. You can also approach the regulator directly if you suspect your trustees.

SB rating — *very likely.*

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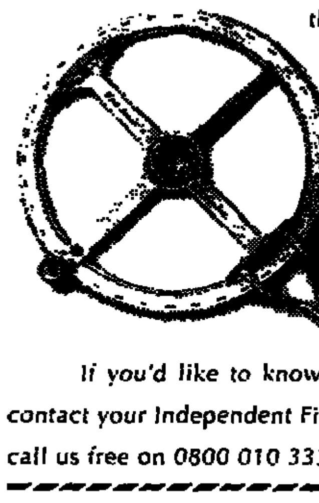

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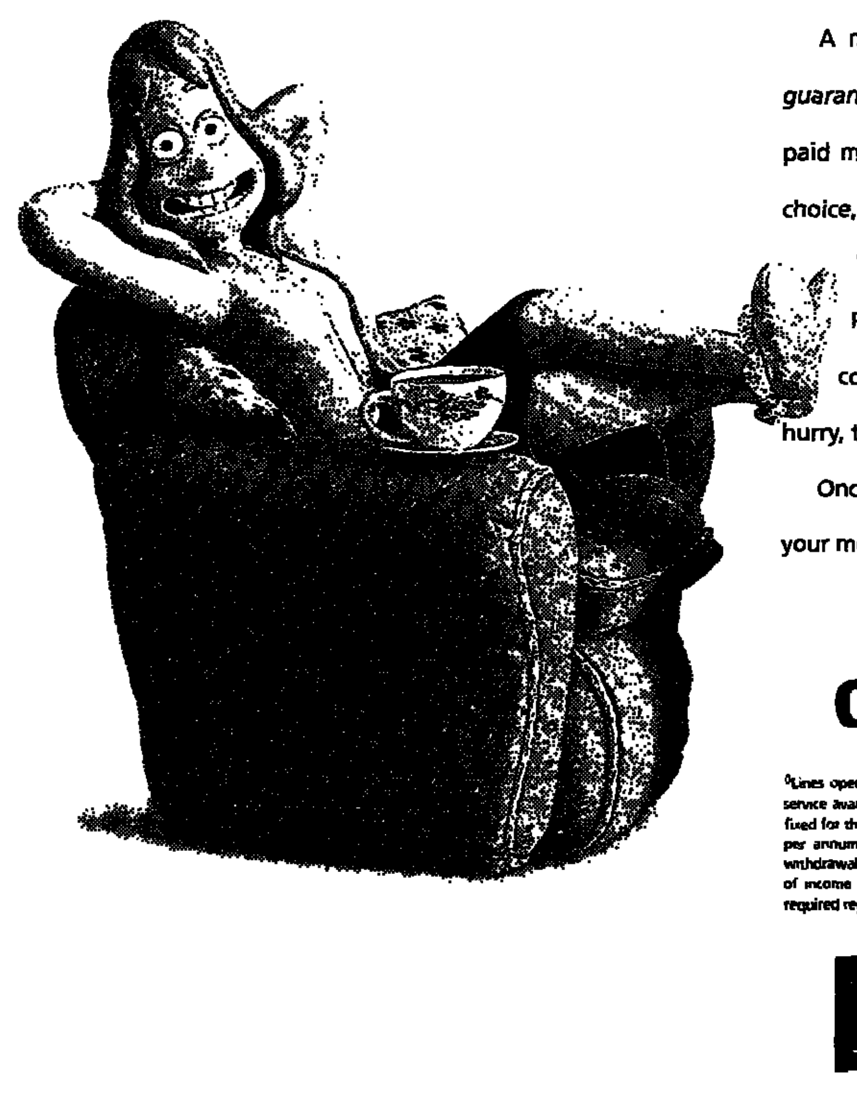

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Can you raise a glass to your investment?

Anne Ashworth on the performance of leading fund management groups

At the annual dinner for the unit trust world, the assembled fund managers and financial advisers do not raise a toast in honour of "Lord Lawson of Blaby, benefactor of our industry". To guests this can seem odd.

Are they not grateful that, during his term as Chancellor, Lord Lawson introduced the Personal Equity Plan (Pep), the single greatest boost that unit trusts have received since their inception in the early Thirties.

Statistics published on Wednesday showed that £11.9 billion is now invested in unit-trust Peps, £4 billion more than a year ago. The Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (Autif) calculates that as much as 60 per cent of *the money put into Peps since* their launch in 1987 is now sitting in unit trusts. This total may now be close to £20 billion (more than twice the combined assets of the Halifax and Leeds building societies after their planned merger), up from £15 billion at the end of the 1993-94 year.

In grabbing a share of the Pep market, the investment trust companies would, at first *sight, seem to have been far* less successful than their unit trust competitors. The latest available figures from the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC) show that, by end-June, 1994, a mere £326 million had gone into investment-trust Peps.

The real total, however, is probably many times that amount, as the AITC is not notified of investment trusts shares bought through stockbrokers and placed in self-select Peps which allow investors to make their own choice of holdings. Although gratifying to fund management companies, these results would probably not raise much of a smile on the face of Lord Lawson. It was his original hope that the Pep tax concessions would steel the nation's *nerve for more direct invest*ment in shares, giving us a taste for venture capitalism. Playing it safe through a unit trust with dozens of separate stakes was held to be insufficiently entrepreneurial.

> More investors are turning to services which grade plans on offer

Full investment in unit and investment trusts was not allowed within the scheme until 1992: a change in the rules prompted by the dissatisfaction surrounding some early purely share-based Peps. These plans were both expen*sive and ris*ky, as often they contained no more than ten shares, sometimes in the same sector. There were initial charges and commissions each time the shares were bought or sold, costs which easily outweighed the tax benefits.

The extension of Peps to *investment and unit trusts has* not, however, put an end to complaints about charges and their impact on the final return from a Pep. As thousands of investors have discovered to their ire, the investment performance of many Peps is so poor that they struggle to recover from the 5 per cent charge deducted from the investment at the outset and the annual management fee.

This is illustrated by the figures prepared by HSW, the performance specialist, for the *Chase de Vere Pep Guide*, which show that over a five-year period to December 1994 only three of the top ten Pepable unit trusts did better than the FT-All Share index. If you had invested £1,000 in the index, it would have grown to £2,232.73. The same amount invested in the top three trusts, the St James UK General & Progressive, the Stewart Ivory Investment Trust and Hill Samuel's UK Emerging Companies, it would have turned into £2,404, £2,358 and £2,357 respectively.

The results for the remaining seven of the top ten are: Perpetual High Income (£2,138), Pembroke Growth (£2,062), Schroder UK Enter*prise* (£2,052), Perpetual Pep Growth (£2,049), United Friendly UK Equity Income (£1,959), Thornton UK Smaller Companies (£1,953) and Perpetual UK Growth (£1,908).

Those who choose investment trusts which have, in the main, lower costs, would have been more pleased with their Peps. According to HSW, the top ten trusts over five years are Murray Enterprise (£3,892), Law Debenture (£2,376), Dunedin Enterprise (£2,042), River & Mercantile (£2,017), Ivory & Sime Personal Assets (£2,013), Finsbury Smaller Companies (£1,997), Moorgate General Consolidated (£1,960), Henderson TR City of London (£1,870) and Glasgow Shires (£1,863).

Some lucky investors would probably confess that they made their choice with a pin. However, as the traditional rush begins to get a Pep before the tax year ends, more investors are turning to services which grade the 1,000 Peps on offer (see next column).

CHOOSING a new Pep involves a series of complex decisions which most investors are forced to make without adequate information. The same difficulties apply to assessing the value of an existing plan: how do you know whether you should cut and run, or stay faithful?

For an initial survey of the market, consult the *Chase de Vere Pep Guide*, the Pep bible (Chase de Vere Investments plc, Freepost, 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3BR). This gives details of all the plans on the market (close to 1,000 at the last count), initial and annual charges, anticipated yield, services for investors and performance figures.

Two research groups, Allenbridge and BESt Investment carry out detailed surveys of Peps, looking into their long-term performance, their ability to perform consistently, their return and their charges. For those unhappy with their present Peps, both also prepare lists of the plans which no discerning investor should continue to hold.

Copies of *BESt Pep*, BESt Investment's Pep recommendations are on offer for a reduced price of £5 which the firm is donating to the NSPCC. Send a cheque for £5, made out to the NSPCC to *BESt* Investment, 32 Duke Street St James, London SW1Y 6DF (0171-321 0100). BESt Investment will analyse your existing Peps for nothing.

For a copy of Allenbridge's *Pep Talk* giving its recommendations for current best Pep buys and details of its existing free Pep analysis service, write to Allenbridge, Freepost SW145, London W1E 8UZ (freephone 0800 339999).

PERSONAL equity plans (Peps) are for adults only. Investors must be over 18 and resident in the UK for tax purposes.

To take out a Pep you must approach a Pep manager, that is, a stockbroker, investment trust or unit trust manager authorised to operate Peps.

Each tax year, a maximum of £6,000 can be invested in a general Pep and a further £3,000 in a single company Pep. This means that a couple can between them invest £18,000. But Peps may not be held in joint names. You can contribute the money as a lump sum, or make regular savings.

Both the dividends paid by the Pep and any capital gains are immediately tax-free. There is no qualifying period, unlike with a tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) where to get tax-free interest you must leave your cash untouched for five years. The plan manager will reclaim the tax deducted from dividends on your behalf.

A general Pep can put money into shares in UK or European Union companies, investment trusts or unit trusts. Managed Peps based on unit or investment trusts are the most widely held because most of those taking out a Pep would rather leave the investment decisions to someone else.

An investment or unit trust can only qualify if at least 50 per cent of its assets are invested in UK or European Union shares. But the rules permit you to put £1,500 worth of your allowance into a non-qualifying trust whose assets are concentrated elsewhere. The balance (£4,500) must then be invested in a qualifying trust.

A single company Pep can invest in the shares of one company only. They are popular among workers who have acquired shares in their company through an employee share scheme, and among those who have *accumulated* a large holding of a favourite share. However, they are increasingly being seen as a cheap way to build up a stake in a business in which you have particular faith.

Discontented investors can transfer the money in their Pep to another Pep manager, without losing the tax benefits. However, they may not be able to avoid an exit fee and an *entry charge for the new plan.* A switch to another plan run by the same manager can be less expensive. If you decide to cash in your Pep, you cannot later change your mind and reinvest the money in the same Pep.

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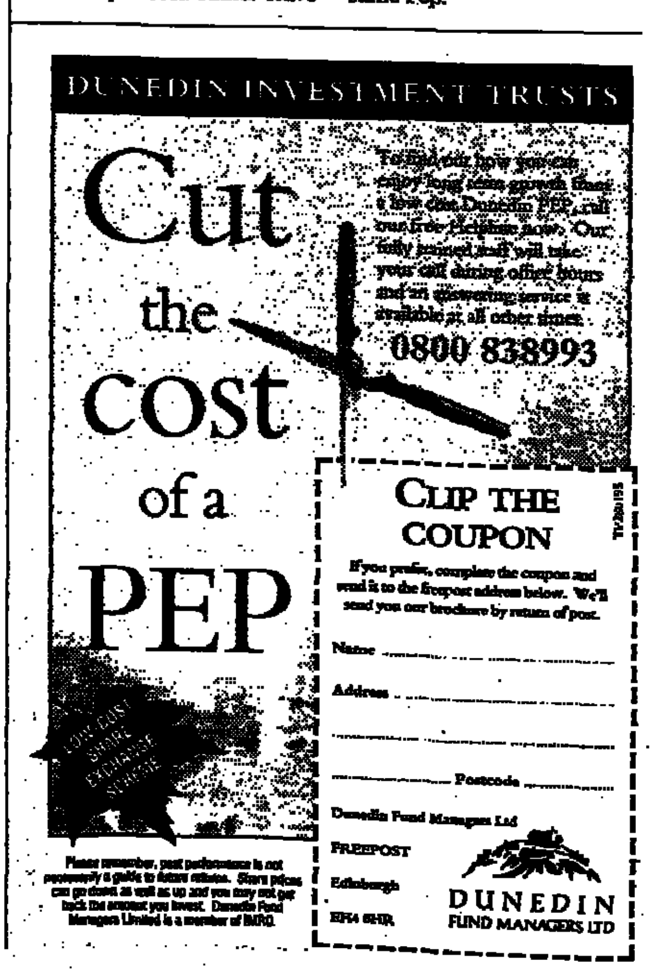
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Fund managers woo savers in search of a tax break

Investors facing the season of sweeteners

No self-respecting unit or investment trust manager would launch a fund at this time of year without adding the tax sweetener of a personal equity plan. Furthermore, with judicious timing, the new investment trust Peps can straddle the old tax year, ending on April 5, and the new one beginning the next day.

This gives investors the opportunity of investing a total of £12,000 by using their annual £6,000 Pep limit over the two-day changeover period. The drawback is that you are making a substantial commitment to just one fund manager.

Investment trust Pep managers can take full advantage of the Inland Revenue rules that state that investors who subscribe to new share issues can transfer the shares into a Pep haven, provided this is done within 42 days. This neatly straddles the two tax years.

However, a Pep label does not necessarily guarantee a good return. There is no tax write-off on losses. First and foremost, you should select a trust that most nearly matches your investment aims, whether it is an out-and-out capital-growth trust, an income-seeking trust or one that provides an immediate income and the prospect of some capital growth over time. The ability of the particular fund manager to achieve your stated aims is of much greater importance than the Pep tax break.

Certainly the new Pep unit and investment trust launches rolled out so far this year have had a strong income theme. Many of them are also planning to take advantage of the new-style corporate Peps, which were announced in the Budget, and which will be available some time after the start of the new tax year.

A wide variety of Peps are being launched or dusted down for marketing purposes:

☐ Portfolio High Income Fund of Funds, launched today, is aiming for an initial yield of about 6.5 per cent. The umbrella fund of funds will invest in a series of underlying unit trusts managed by groups such as Gartmore, M&G, Perpetual and GT. The fund, which has a low initial charge of 3 per cent, reducing for lump-sum investment of £25,000 or more, will not include any trust in the portfolio yielding less than 4 per cent. Tim Miller, chairman of Portfolio, said the new trust would also try to "maximise capital preservation".

At first, the fund will have about 60 per cent in equity-income unit trusts and 40 per cent in fixed-interest funds. However, once the new corporate-bond Pep rules come into effect, the balance will shift to a 50/50 split.

The double-charging problem on the underlying unit trusts has been addressed, Mr Miller said, "by making sure we get big reductions in the charges on the underlying funds. There is no extra charge for the Pep". The minimum investment is £3,000. Tel: 0171-638 0808.

☐ Hill Samuel has this week cut the initial charge on all its Pep plans from 6 per cent to 4 per cent while the annual fee will remain at 1.5 per cent. The minimum investment in the group's Peps is £1,000 or £50 a month. Tel: 0800 336600.

☐ GT's new High Yield Fund was the first launched with the new corporate-bond Pep rules in mind. The estimated gross starting yield for the trust, which has a minimum investment of £1,000 (£50 a month), is 8.5 per cent. GT is offering investors a free switch into its plan during April and a 1 per cent discount on investments made up to April 5. Income payments will be distributed quarterly, starting on June 21. Tel: 0800 212274.

TRUST WATCH

☐ Schroders' Income Builder Pep will be linked to a new Income Growth Fund Investment Trust that will aim for a starting yield of 4.5 per cent after plan charges. The Schroders' investment trust is one which will take full advantage of the 42-day new issue rule to span the two tax years. As an added sweetener, there will be one free warrant for every five shares subscribed for during the launch period which closes on March 1. Clive Boothman, Schroders' director, said: "At the moment, the UK stock market presents an attractive investment opportunity for generating income for investors." Schroders believes dividends will grow by 6 per cent in 1995. Such strong dividend growth would be amid subdued inflation, expected to remain at about 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent. The minimum Pep investment is £3,000. Tel: 0800 002000.

☐ Morgan Grenfell's new UK Growth Unit Trust is also Pepable and has a minimum investment of £1,000, or an unusually low £25-a-month savings scheme. The initial charge is 5.25 per cent with an annual fee of 1.5 per cent.

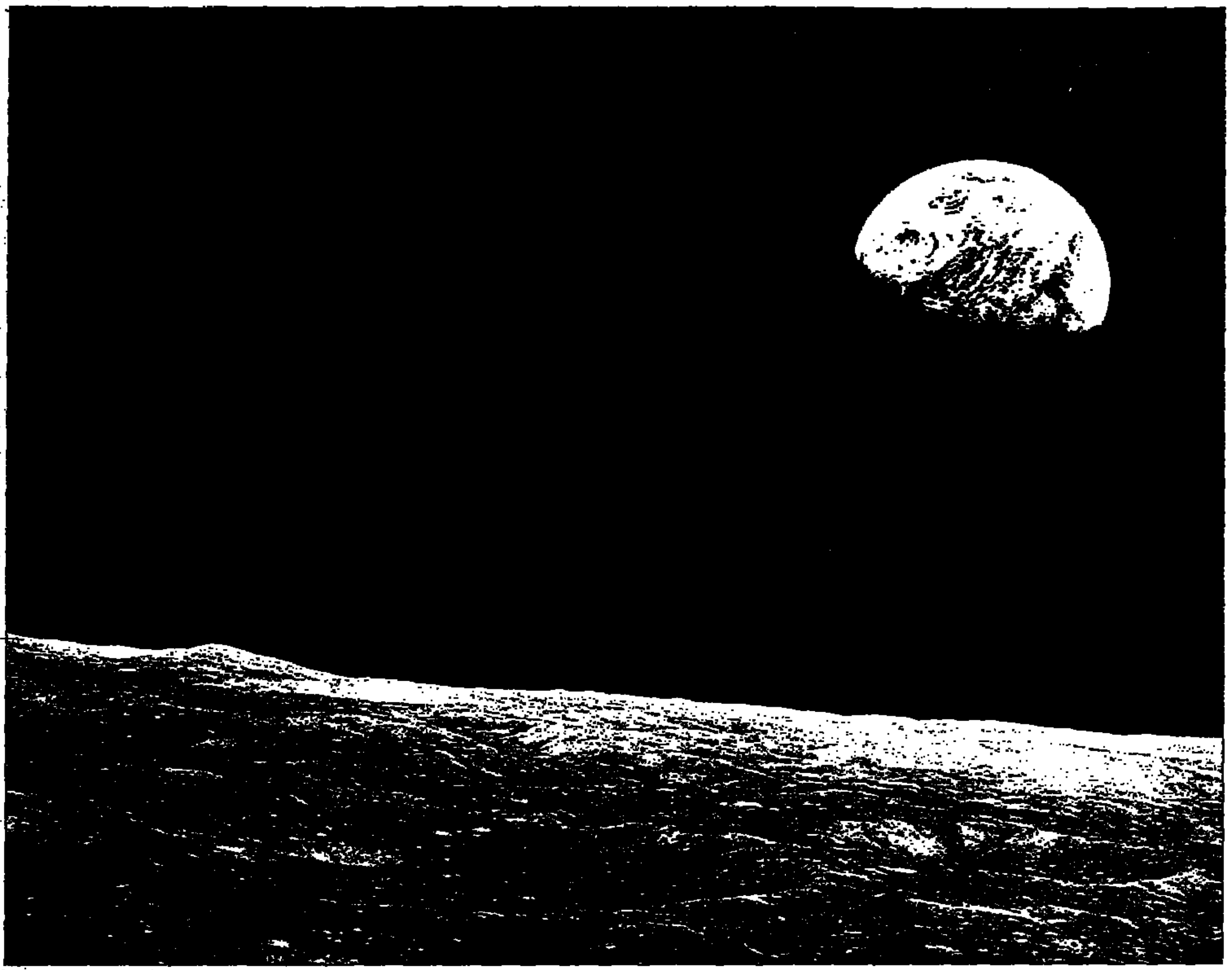
Graham Kane, managing director of Morgan Grenfell's unit trust arm, said: "Our research shows that nearly five times as many investors say they would choose a Pep with good past performance over a Pep with low charges. This highlights the crucial issue in the Pep market at the present time. Namely, too much attention is being paid to charges and not enough to performance." Tel: 0800 282465.

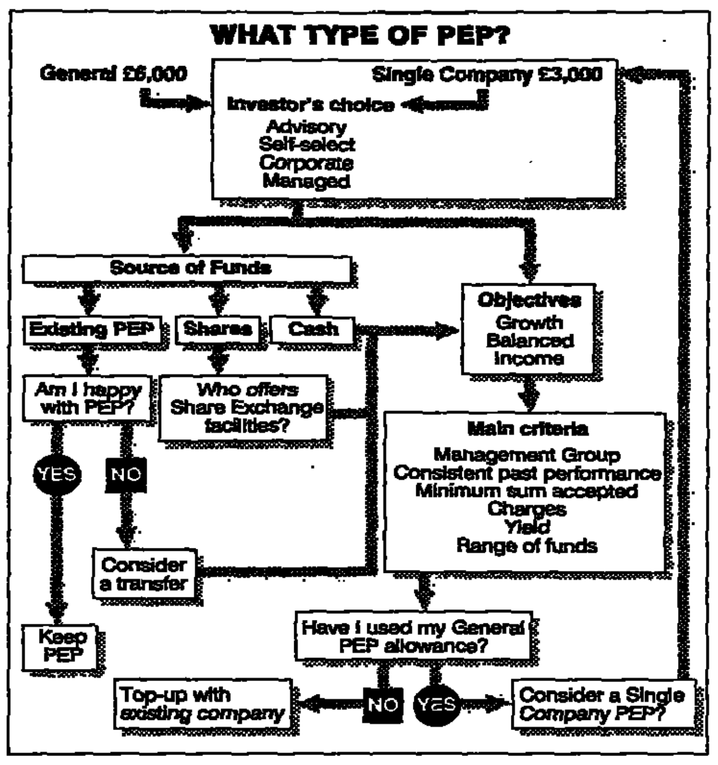
☐ The Prudential's new Pep is linked to five of the group's existing growth-oriented unit trusts — Managed, European, Pacific, Japanese or North American — and, for income, the Pru's Distribution Trust. Investors choosing the income option have the choice of balanced income and growth, fixed-income or deferred income. Income payments from the Pep can be made monthly or quarterly directly into a bank or building-society account. The minimum investment is £1,000 or £100 a month. Tel: 0800 000000.

☐ Henderson Touche Remnant's Accelerated Income Pep is linked to the group's new Income & Growth Split Investment Trust. This is a split-capital investment trust, which will have a planned life of eight years, has two classes of shares — income ordinary and zero dividend preference.

Minimum investment in the HTR newcomer is £2,000 in each share class and £2,000 for the Pep.

The income ordinary shares are looking for an initial gross yield of 7.5 per cent. The annual 0.75 per cent Pep charge will be charged to capital. HTR is also promoting the double Pep opportunity in 1994-95 and 1995-96. Tel: 0345 881144.





Fund managers seem to be offering Pep investors a world of opportunity at this time of year, but those wanting to buy this type of investment should check which sort of Pep would be most suitable

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Delay in setting rules raises fears over corporate trusts, says **Helen Pridham**

Forming a bond with industry

The *announcement in* November's Budget that Peps could for the first time invest solely in corporate bonds and preference shares paying a fixed rate of interest was music to the ears of fund managers.

The industry saw the concession as a new way to attract building society savers looking to improve their income. A bond-based Pep should be able to offer a much higher income yield, with less capital risk than a standard issue share Pep, but with all the same tax advantages.

Estimates of the amounts that the new Peps could attract have ranged from £2 billion to *more than ten times that sum*. The last figure comes from Philip Warland, director of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, who says: "The £25 billion or so invested in Tessas indicates how much longer term money there is with building societies which could go into corporate bond Peps." However, in the past few weeks, the early euphoria has faded. There is growing concern in the industry and elsewhere that the new Peps may be sold on their yields alone, with each unit trust *company trying to outdo the* other.

There is some anxiety that not only might they be marketed to the wrong investors, but that the risks, modest though they may be, will be understated. Many unit trust companies are also irafe that the Inland Revenue's tardiness means that they will not be ready in time to launch corporate bond Peps by the beginning of the new tax year.

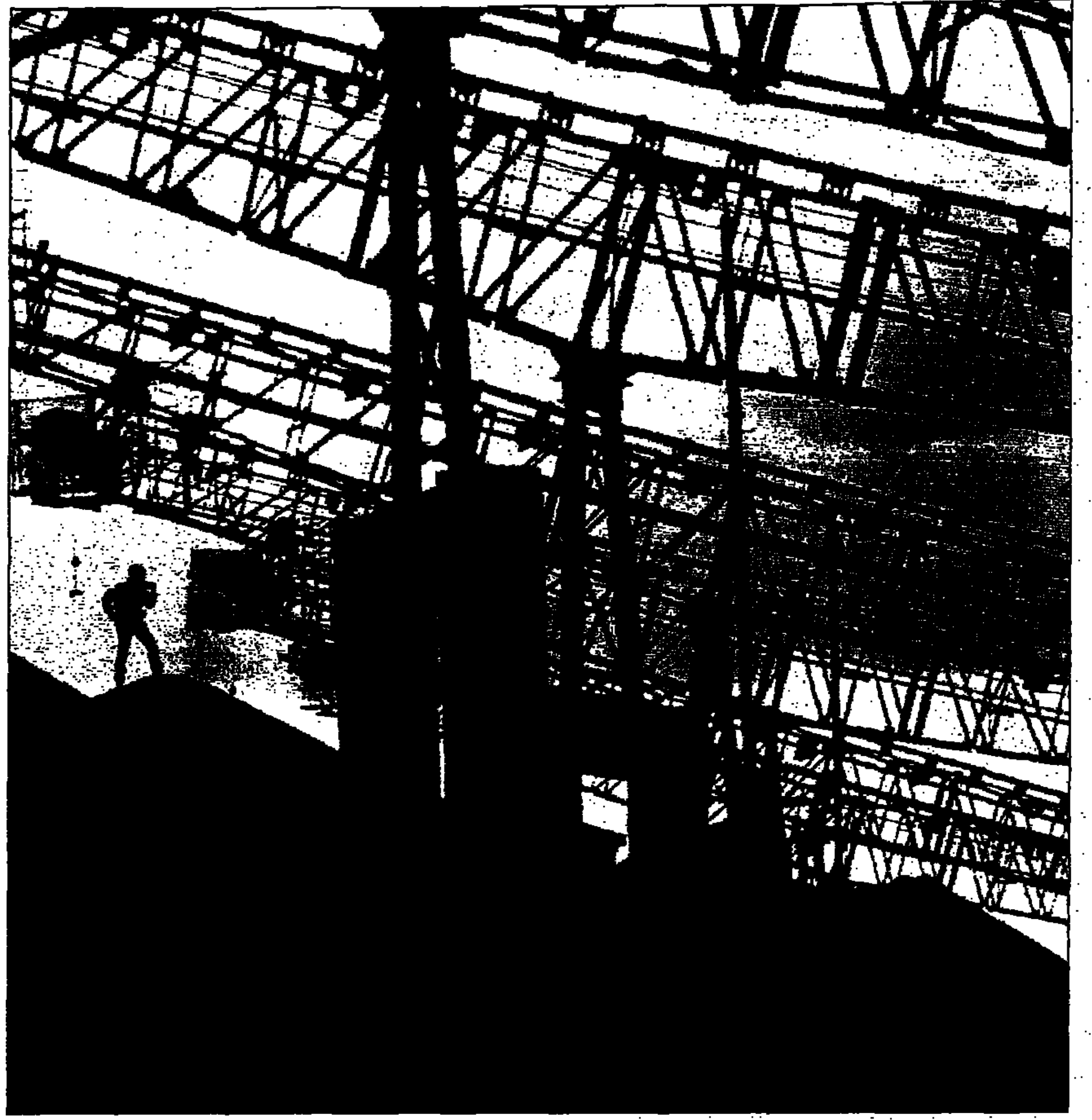
The reason is the delay in the publication of rules for the new Peps. Groups such as Save & Prosper do not wish to proceed with plans to launch a trust until they know how the regulations are to be structured.

Another grouse is the restricted number of bonds that will be eligible. For example, sterling Eurobonds, which many top UK companies, such as the Abbey National, ICI and Tesco, use as a method of raising finance, will not rank as qualifying investments.

Also excluded will be bonds in financial companies, as the Chancellor sees Peps principally as a way of providing finance for manufacturing industry, not the financial service sector.

Julian Tregoning, of Save & Prosper, wonders whether, when the rules finally appear, property companies will also be ineligible. He says: "If property is barred, then there would be very little left."

IMAGE BANK



The mechanics for funding Britain's manufacturing industry should be provided by corporate bond Peps

The prices of the bonds which, at present, appear to be eligible have already risen in expectation of the flood of money.

Martin Harrison, of GT, the unit trust group, comments: "We estimate the total size of the qualifying corporate bond market at around £15 billion. If only 1 per cent of the £200 billion or so held in building society acccounts were to move in to the market it would soon absorb the better quality company debt and force investors into more riskier securities."

This is likely to be a potential problem anyway. Mike Webb, of Prolific, says: "It would be possible even now to structure a preference share fund with a yield of 10 to 11 per cent but you would have to invest in companies that may be less financially sound than you would like. Such companies have to offer higher yields to get investors to take the risk. The thing about corporate debt is that it is only as secure as the company that issues it. Our experience in the late Eighties, when preference shares issued by companies such as Parkfield and Coloroll became worthless after those firms went bust, has taught us to be very cautious, but other fund managers who have not run this type of fund before could be on something of a learning curve."

> ‘A bond-based Pep should be able to offer a much higher income yield’

Webb also points out that however tempting the yields on the new corporate bond Peps may be, longer-term investors are still likely to be better off with a good old equity income unit trust. Despite this long list of reservations, Clerical & Medical, GT and Prolific have, in the past few weeks, launched trusts that can be transformed into corporate bond Peps when the time comes.

GT Management's answer has been to design a fund that it believes will qualify under the new Pep rules and offer investors who put their money in now a free switch into the Pep once available.

Martin Harrison, GT's managing director, argues "We believe that by putting their money in now, investors will be able to get into the corporate bond market before it takes off. If they wait until April when all the other companies start launching bond Peps after April, the huge amount of money that will hit the market may already have driven prices up."

GT's new High Yield fund is quoting an estimated starting yield of 8.5 per cent and will have quarterly income distributions. Prolific is offering a similar free-switch-into-Pep deal with its two existing unit trusts that it intends will be qualifying under the new rules — Prolific Convertible & Gilt and Prolific Preference & Fixed Interest.

Clerical Medical, on the other hand, has come up with a way in which investors can use this year's Pep allowance, as well as next year's. It has launched a fund that is currently 50 per cent invested in shares and therefore immediately eligible for Pep status. After April 6, it will sell the shares and buy bonds instead, thereby converting itself into a new-style bond Pep. The Extra Income fund has an expected yield of 8 per cent and also pays income quarterly. Like GT's fund, the minimum investment is £1,000.

The types of stock in which corporate-bond Peps should be able to invest include fixed-interest securities issued by companies. Some are similar to gilts that are issued by the Government but without the cast iron guarantee of repayment that it can give. The safest are debentures because they are secured on specific company assets and rank ahead of other creditors if a company goes into liquidation. Not quite so secure, but still ranking ahead of all other creditors, is unsecured loan stock. Both debentures and unsecured loan stock have a fixed repayment date.

Other types of corporate fixed-interest securities are convertibles and preference shares. Convertibles give the holder the right to convert into a company's ordinary shares at a fixed price at a later date. Preference shares form part of a company's share capital rather than its loan stock. They have an unlimited life, but may be bought back by the company or paid off in the event of a takeover. There is nothing to stop unit trusts investing in any of these securities but they will not currently qualify under the Pep rules.

Fact sheets offer tips

THE Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) offers a free Pep Pack. The fact sheets in the pack cover basic infomation about unit trust Peps; tips on Pep selection; advice on using Peps to repay mortgages, including tax breaks; a list of unit trust managers that offer Peps, with addresses and minimum investments in savings plans and lump sums.

The pack is available free from Autif's Unit Trust Information Service, on 0181 207 1361.

Other free booklets offered by the service include *Unit Trusts and You*; *Unit Trusts: a user's handbook*; *Unit Trusts: the directory*.

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HIGH-INCOME PEPS

Unit Trust Peps

	Projected Yield (%)	What £100 is now worth One year	3 years
Barclays Unicorn Income Builder	5.0	86	137
Fidelity High Income	5.2	84	—
Hypo F&C High Income	10.2	89	—
Midland Monthly Income	5.7	—	—
Morgan Grenfell High Income	10.0	91	—
Perpetual High Income	4.1	90	165
Prolific Extra Income	4.0	86	137
Save & Prosper Income	4.5	88	140
TSB High Income	4.8	85	140
Average		87	138

Values are shown on an offer to bid basis with net income reinvested. The funds included are the biggest Pep-ed funds in the UK Balanced sector.

HIGH-INCOME TRUSTS

	What £100 is now worth One year	3 years
Abtrust High Income	—	—
Fleming High Income	83	121
Geared Income	86	132
Glasgow Income	89	139
Govett High Income	—	—
Henderson Highland	94	149
Shires	82	151
Touche Ross High Income	88	147
Average	87	155

These investment trusts are all pep qualifying
Source: Micropal

High income yes, but can you afford the cost?

Jean Eaglesham

says high fees and income can soon eat up your capital

High income may come at a high price in terms of poor investment growth. Ask anyone with a Hypo Foreign and Colonial Pep. Launched in a blaze of publicity almost two years ago, this promised 10 per cent income, or more than double the typical building society rates on offer at that time.

It was strongly hyped by some independent financial advisers, like Hargreaves Lansdown, who gushed in their newsletter that "You could not improve on perfection". It was the most successful unit trust launch ever, pulling in more than £500 million from 70,000 investors.

In one respect, Hypo F&C has delivered. While target income was cut to 9 per cent last June, the current yield is still more than 10 per cent. However, investors who withdrew income have seen the value of their Pep fall almost a fifth since the fund's launch.

In other words, any income has been matched by a corresponding fall in capital. Investors can get the same result, without paying management fees, by putting cash under their mattress and taking "income" whenever needed.

Haydn Green, of the Pep Shop, says that "If past performance has been bleak, the immediate prospects appear no better". Craig Wolf, of Hypo F&C, says he is "pretty cautious" about the outlook.

The problem lies partly in the way the fund is structured. As with similar high-income Peps that followed it — most notably by Morgan Grenfell and Abbey Life — the Hypo F&C fund relies heavily on derivatives, particularly options, to sell the shares held in the fund at a given future date and price. The result is that while the fund should be able to cut its losses if the stock market is falling, it does not fully benefit from market rises.

Mr Green believes that many of the advisers who recommended this product understood little of the derivative techniques used.

The use of these financial instruments may have stopped advisers from asking closely just how the 10 per cent was going to be achieved at a time when comparable investments were paying out so much less. Certainly, it is questionable whether all the investors who bought them appreciated the risk to their capital.

John Spiers, of BESt Investment, a research firm, said: "A lot of people who bought high income Peps do not really need one — many of them don't even withdraw the income, which is madness." Taking a high income from an investment invariably involves sacrificing actual or potential capital growth, and so the opportunity to get an increasing income in future. The underlying enemy is inflation. Investors who don't need to maximise their current income are almost certainly better off going for a lower yielding unit trust, or investment trust which offers the chance of future capital growth as well as income. Of the 100-odd unit trusts in the UK Equity Income sector (funds aimed at a combination of income and growth), Allenbridge, Pep specialist, recommend Morgan Grenfell Equity Income or Newton Income, based on their consistently strong performances. Both funds offer relatively low yields, the Newton unit trust paying 3.5 per cent and the Morgan Grenfell trust 3.2 per cent.

What about investors who need a much higher income?

Ros Barder, editor of the *Chase de Vere Pep Guide*, believes there is a place for high-income, very-low (or no-) growth Peps like the Hypo F&C one, for investors desperate for high, monthly income and who accept the price to be paid. However, anyone in this position needs to consider whether the tax advantages of a Pep outweigh the costs.

For non-taxpayers, who can already get tax-free investment income from high-income deposit accounts and fixed-interest securities like gilts, the answer is almost certainly not.

For older investors — men over 65 and women over 70 — the highest income is usually offered by annuities, where you pay over capital for good.

If you do want a high-income Pep, then the specialists counsel waiting for the rush of new bond-based Peps, due to be launched this spring. They should, in theory, offer high income at a lower risk than share-based Peps.

Chase de Vere believes the new Peps will transform the high-income market, although Mr Spiers gave warning against new Peps with management charges in excess of 0.5 per cent, which could erode the tax benefits for many investors. Mr Green is more cautious, saying the new Peps will attract lots of "mug money" as long as the yields look competitive. Anyone going for a high-income Pep should calculate how charges can eat into their investment — particularly the annual fee, which has risen over the years and has the biggest effect over the long term.

New figures from Fidelity, the fund manager, show how fees deducted from capital can damage total income in the longer term, as well as the fund's capital value. For example, a fund with a 1.5 per cent annual charge, no up-front charge, 8 per cent income and no capital growth. Charging the fee to capital would raise the first year's income from £65 to £80 — but at a price. Each £1,000 invested would be worth just £860 after ten years (as opposed to £1,000 with the fees to income option), while the *total* income from each £1,000 would be £50 less.

If the fund does achieve some capital growth (which should be the case, as in the medium term) the effects are even more marked.

A spokesman for Save & Prosper, the unit trust manager, highlighted an inherent flaw in the Hypo F&C fund — unlike a conventional-income unit trust, its structure means that, after a stock market fall, it is "very unlikely" to recapture all the lost ground when the market rises again, even if it rises back to its previous level. Save & Prosper contemplated launching a similar fund in 1994, but pulled out because it "felt the risk of capital erosion was too high".

John Spiers, of BESt Investment, says many buyers of high-income Peps do not need them

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Gordon Galletly is one of many investors who were tempted into a high-income Pep by the headline rate on offer and feel badly let down by the subsequent loss on their capital (Jean Eaglesham writes). Mr Galletly, who is retired, invested £6,000 *in the Morgan Grenfell High-Income Pep in November 1993*, on the basis of the advertised 10 per cent income. He wrote to Morgan Grenfell a year later to point out that, while he had *indeed enjoyed this rate of income, his investment was now* worth just £5,050 — "as I see it, the income has been achieved by you paying me back £600 of my own money with a further 8.8 *per cent of my money having been lost by you in some* way".

In reply, Morgan Grenfell said that the loss could be attributed in part to the 5 per cent initial charge and that "the fund has fulfilled its objective".

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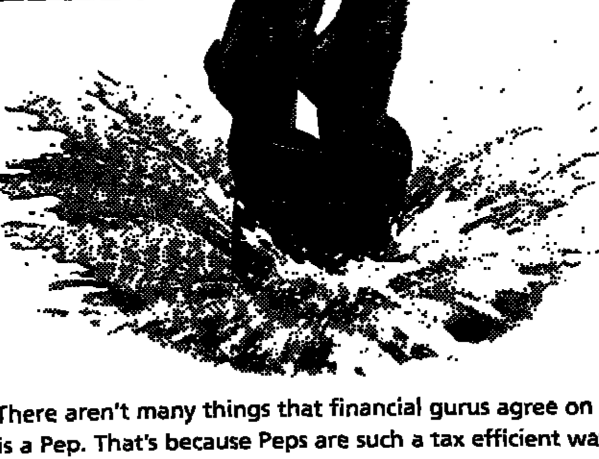

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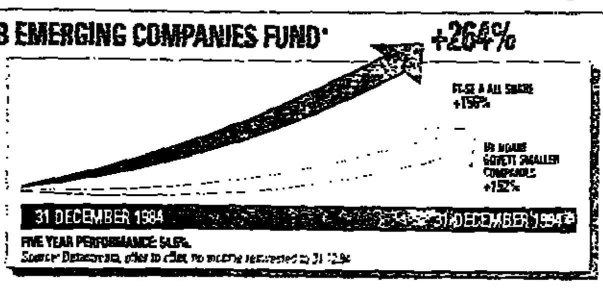

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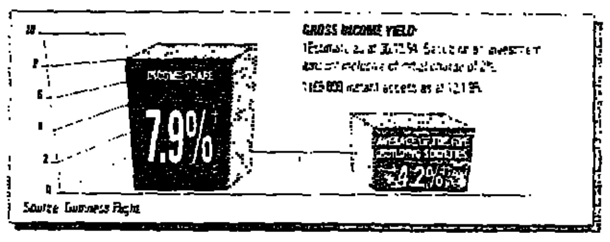

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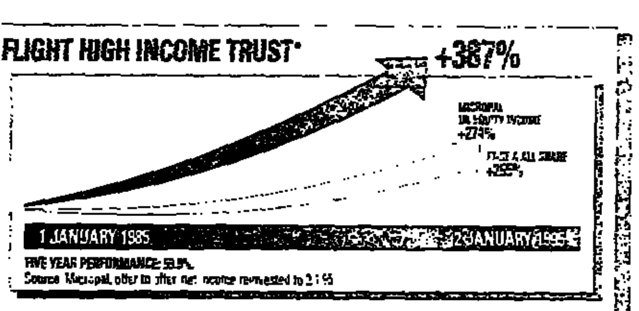

*A UK authorised unit trust

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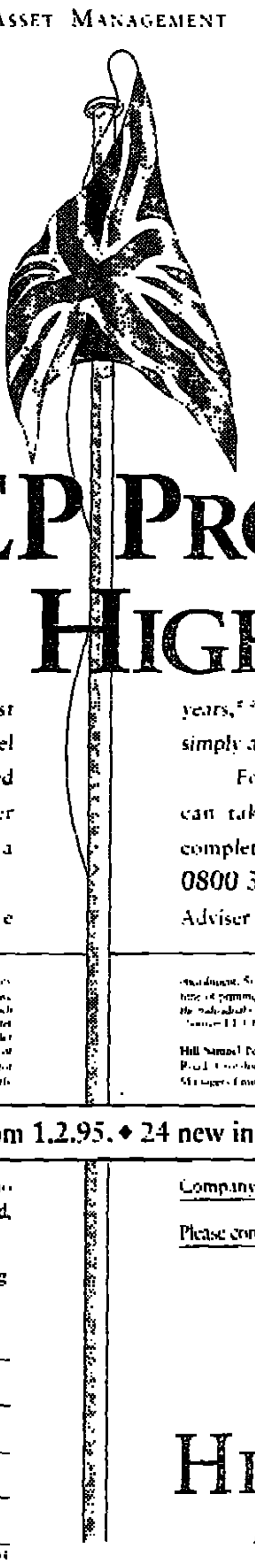

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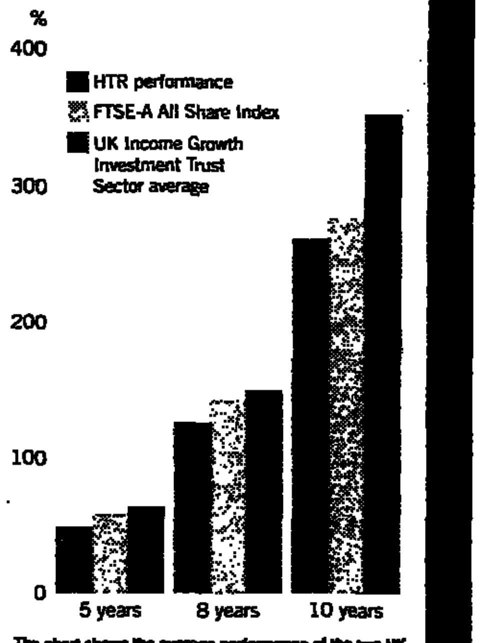
Henderson Touche Remnant's Outstanding Track Record



The chart shows the average performance of the two UK Income Growth Investment Trusts managed by Henderson Touche Remnant – TR City of London Trust PLC and Lowland Investment Company plc – compared with their investment trust sector average and with the FTSE-A All Share Index, over 5, 8 and 10 years.

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Chart source: performance figures are compiled by AITC Services Ltd to 30.11.94 showing NAV total return with net income reinvested. Past performance is no guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount invested. Taxes related to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend upon the circumstances of the investor.

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Do-it-yourself to beat the fund managers

Helen Pridham

explains why self-select Peps are growing in popularity with investors

Self-select Personal Equity Plans are the only Peps still fulfilling the Government's original vision when it launched these tax-free investment schemes in 1987. The intention of Nigel Lawson, then Chancellor, was that they should help to widen and to deepen private share ownership.

Instead the bulk of the money has gone into unit trusts. But self-select plans that allow investors to buy and sell the shares they want are undoubtedly encouraging a new generation of private shareholders.

Though vastly outsold by managed Peps, leading brokers report self-select plans are today attracting growing numbers of longer-term Pep investors who have either become disillusioned with the efforts of professional investment managers and feel they can do better themselves or, having watched the progress of their first managed Peps, have gained the confidence to have a go themselves.

Nigel Bartram, marketing director of Sharelink, the telephone broker, said: "We often hear investors saying they are fed up watching those who are meant to know what they are doing getting it wrong. They argue that if anyone is going to make mistakes with their money they would rather do it themselves. They feel their judgment is probably just as good."

Justin Urquhart Stewart, marketing and development director at Barclays Stockbrokers, also believes there has been a learning curve. "There is no doubt Pep investors are becoming more sophisticated. Those who have had plans for a number of years have been observing the market more closely and get to a point where they want to put into practice what they have leart," he said.

There are currently about 75 self-select Peps on offer, mainly from firms of brokers as well as from banks and financial advisers. But they are not all the same and investors need to look carefully at what they are being offered. According to Jason Hollands of *BESt PEP*, which compares terms offered by different Pep providers, *there are three main* factors to consider when choosing a self-select Pep.

He said: "Unlike other Peps, the investment performance of the plan manager is usually irrelevant because the selections are made by the investor. This means the main factors to be considered are what restrictions there are on investment choice, charges and quality of service."

Investment choices vary — some providers restrict you to shares only, some allow you to include either unit and investment trusts, others will permit you to include both. If you are mainly interested in shares, you should check that you are not restricted to a limited list, say the FT-SE 100 index.

Charges can be confusing and their impact will partly depend on how often you trade your shares, the number of shares that you hold in your Pep and the size of your investment.

BESt PEP's latest recommendations for inactive, average and active investors are shown in the table, though it should be pointed out that with an Alliance Pep, it is compulsory to invest a minimum of £750 a year in one of the two Alliance investment trusts before being able to take advance of its cheap terms for dealing in other shares and investment trusts of your choice.

BESt PEP also points out that for larger investors, Sharelink comes up trumps because of its maximum commission of £37.50.

Sharelink, which now has more than £200 million of self-select Pep investment under its belt, has seen an increasing volume of Pep transfer business over the past year. Mr Bartram said: "Investors who have previously taken out a plan with a different manager each year are finding it easier to lump them together in our self-select plan, which allows them to hold unit and investment trusts as well as individual shares. It is administratively easier for them and allows them to switch investments around more freely."

Quality of service is more difficult to judge until you have opened a plan and there may be other benefits to consider too.

You may also be interested in what information services are available. Barclays, for example, offers a 24-hour premium rate telephone service with its latest opinions on the top 125 shares, plus a monthly advisory sheet with buy, sell or hold recommendations on selected shares for £100 pa. Sharelink has a variety of services including a company reports service, weekly buy sell guide and a telephone service.

With a self-select plan, the final decision on whether to buy or sell a share rests with you. Professionals argue that few private investors beat the *FT All-Share Index* and that unless you like to "share pick" as a hobby, you would be better off investing in a unit trust. However, there are plenty of trust managers who, likewise, do not beat the index.

[illegible]

Manager and Plan	Total costs over 3-year period (%)
Cheap Plans for Inactive Investors	
Alliance Trust, The Alliance Pep *	1.4
Adams & Neville Asset Management Pep	1.6
Piling & Co Pep	2.4
Cheap Plans for Average Investors	
Alliance Trust, The Alliance Pep *	2.6
Adams & Neville Asset Management Pep	5.0
Reyker Securities Pep	5.4
Cheap Plans for Active Investors	
Alliance Trust, The Alliance Pep *	3.8
Reyker Securities Pep	6.7
Lloyds Bank Choice Pep	7.8

* Compulsory minimum investment in an Alliance Investment Trust. Source: BESt Pep

Powerful perks for loyalty

APPLICANTS for shares in the forthcoming National Power and PowerGen share offer will be offered a choice *of perks — but only if they* apply through a share shop (Liz Dolan writes).

They may either get a discount of 25p per share for the first 800 shares allocated or, alternatively, opt to receive one free share for every 15 already held.

The aim is to encourage people to hold on to their shares, so neither option will be available immediately.

The discount will be split between the second and final payments for both National Power and Powergen shares — 10p off the second instalment and 15p off the final one. The maximum total discount is £200.

The bonus issue is only available to those who hold on to their shares until March 31, 1998. The maximum allocation is 80 free shares on a holding of 1,200 shares.

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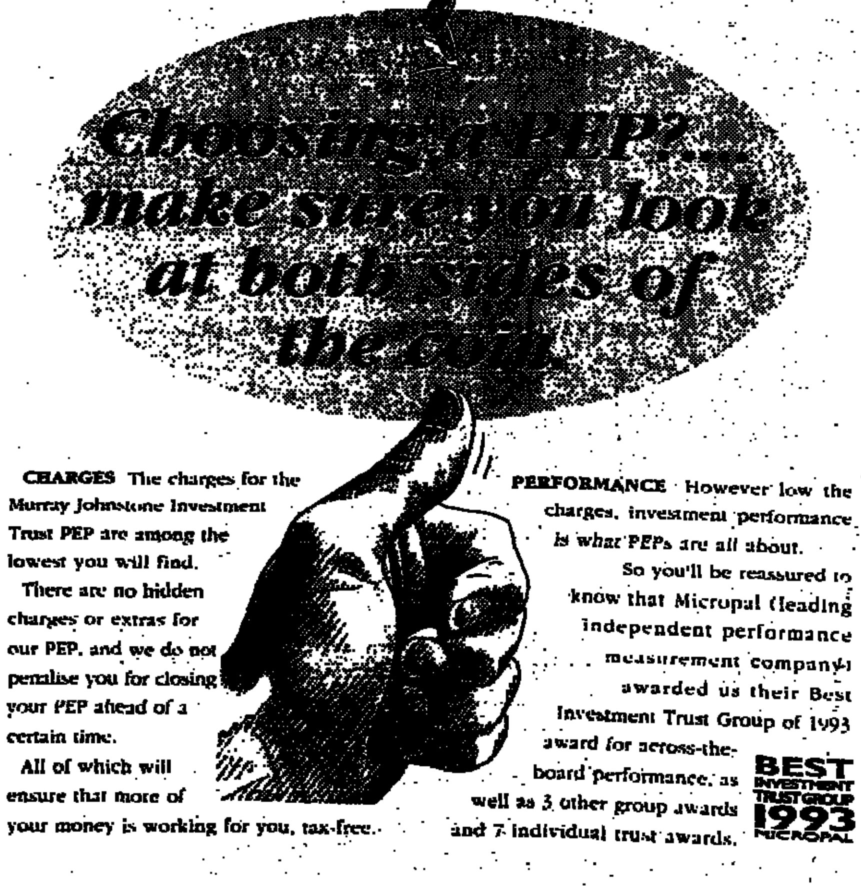
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Alan Sugar, head of Amstrad, where problems were apparent to those investors who noticed a build up of stocks

Investor's six-point plan to greater dividends

Michael Stead explains what to look for in an annual report

One of the first figures experienced readers of accounts look for is the net asset value of the business. You can find it in the capital and reserves (or shareholders' funds) section of the balance sheet. It is useful to make a comparison between the net asset value, the book value of the company's assets, less its debts, with the company's market capitalisation figure which appears in newspaper share price listings. The market cap is the total value of all the company's shares in issue.

The gap between book value and its market cap can vary enormously. The share price may stand at a large premium to the net asset value in large successful companies, particularly after large takeovers.

Where the company's shares are very unpopular, the price may fall to a discount to the asset value — creating a potential opportunity for a bargain if you are prepared to bet against the market.

■ Debt:

The key to the financial stability of a business. Interest charges should swallow up less than a third of the operating profits to keep even a modest safety margin, better still, only a fifth or less. Another rule of thumb states the cash generated from the company's operations year should not be less than half of the outstanding financial debt (borrowing money). This information is in the notes to the accounts that show borrowings with the first line of the cash flow report. Comparing operating cash flows generated in 1993 in BTR, Cadbury Schweppes and Tesco, showed BTR with finance debt equivalent to 1.9 times generated cash flows, Tesco 1.2 years and Cadbury Schweppes 1 year.

■ Profits and Profitability

The outlook and potential for improvement in the business should be assessed. Your strategy may be to go with proven success or to seek high-yielding bargains. Read closely operating and financial reviews and segmental and geographical analyses, looking out for where profits losses occur.

> Where the shares are unpopular, the price may fall to a discount to the asset value

■ Liquidity and cash flow

Check in the cash flow report to see to what extent the company is paying for its investment from its own cash flow, not new debt. For example, over the two financial years, 1993 and 1994, Tesco had operating cash flows of £1.46 billion. After interest, tax and dividends, it still invested £1.36 billion in the business. Does the company suffer from illiquidity or is it a profitable, low-debt company choosing to use short-term funds? Sainsbury, has recently operated successfully with short-term borrowings. BTR has done so on a greater scale and less comfortably.

■ Working Capital Investment

The issues here include the way managers control this area and also the warning signs of trading problems. Matters to address include hints of poor trading at the year end suggested by stock pile ups and sharp reduction in debtors. Trading problems at companies such as Amstrad have been apparent in the build up of stocks in the balance sheet. Simultaneous downward changes in the debtors are a giveaway.

■ Fixed Assets

These consist of tangible fixed assets, intangible assets and strategic (fixed asset) investments. Key issues include ailing subsidiaries and associates — the risks of their failure and the possible impact of cross guarantees. The accounting note *Contingent Liabilities* will show whether guarantees have been given by the company. The same note may show other contingencies such as potential product liabilities. British and Commonwealth Group is an illustration in recent times of a very large company being ruined by a guarantee for a large subsidiary.

■ Intangible Assets

These are the assets of the business, some recognised, mostly not, which do not have a simple physical presence. The accounts do not adequately reflect these items.

Important issues include the extent of the investment of the company in its support of leading brands and in acquiring goodwill by takeovers, the extent to which brand values are recognised and the impact on various popular accounting ratio test of accounting policies in these areas. Cadbury Schweppes, Unilever and numerous other big household names invest heavily in marketing their products and some, like pharmaceuticals invest heavily in research and some may make numerous large acquisitions.

**The Investor's Guide to how to use Company Accounts for Successful Investment Decisions* by Michael Stead. Financial Times/Pitman Publishing, £35.

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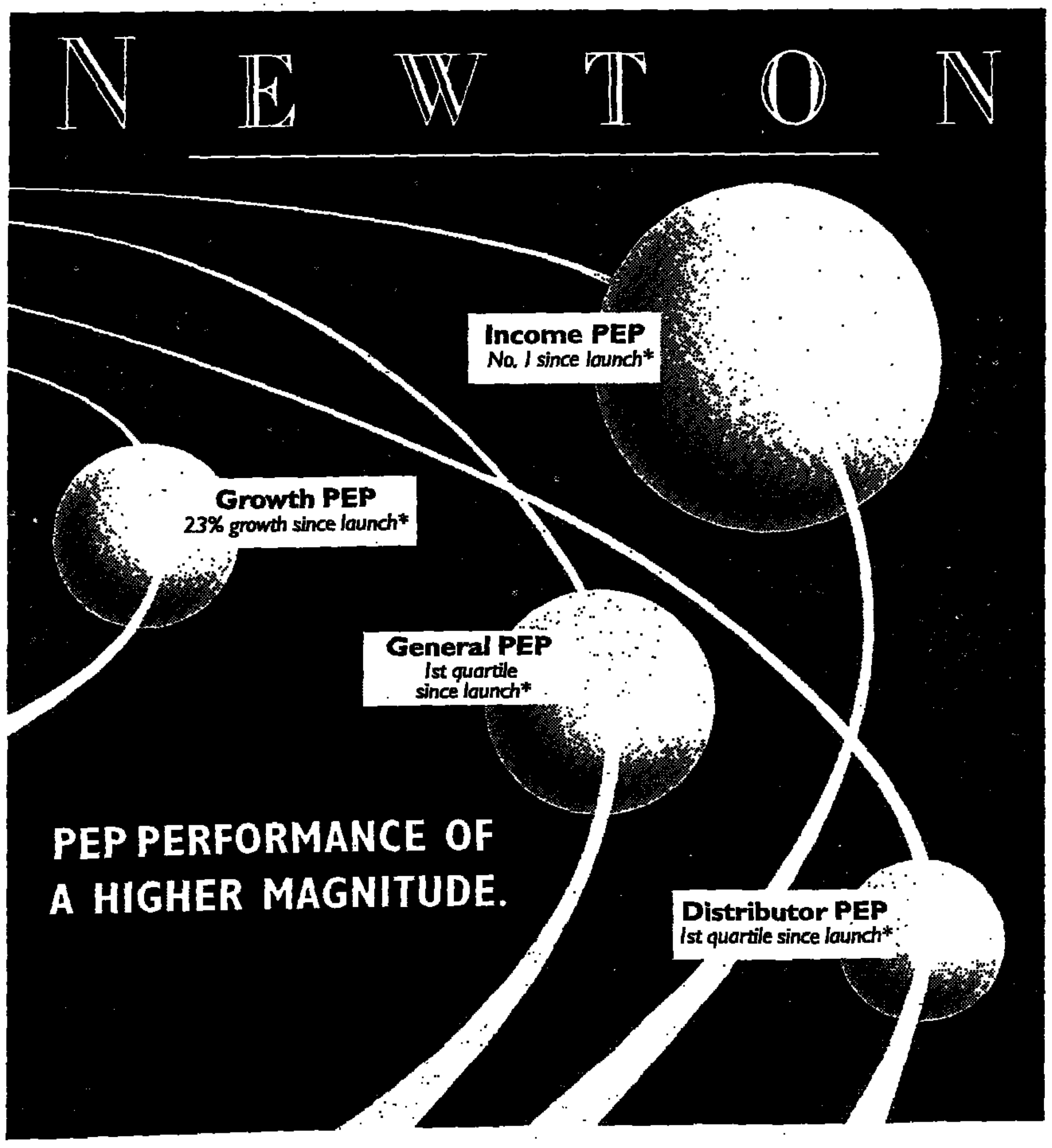

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*Source. Micropal figures to 2nd January 1995 from launch (Income Fund, 1/5/85; General Fund, 2/4/90; Growth Fund, 1/12/92; Distributor Fund, 1/2/94) on an offer-to-bid basis including gross income reinvested. Growth figures for Income PEP over five years: 80%. Prevailing tax levels and reliefs are liable to change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Issued by Newton Fund Managers Limited, regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. A member of AUTIF

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**Source: Schroders, income for fund accounting year 1993/4, income for fund accounting year 1979/80 and the total income for each fund accounting year since 1979/80 (i.e. assuming an investment in June 1979).*

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SPONSORED PEPS

Top companies with Pep schemes

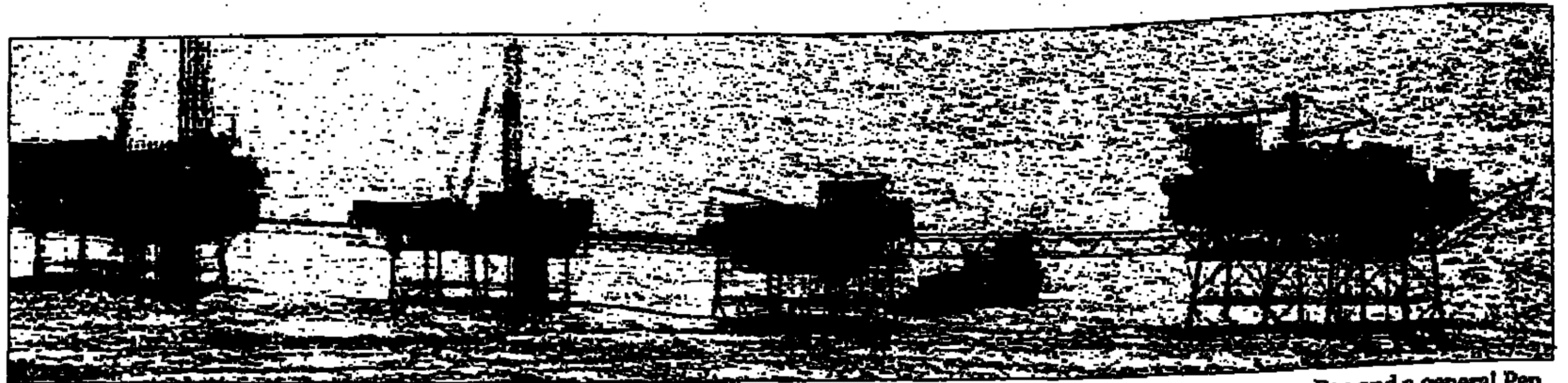
Company	Minimum Investment Lump sum/ Monthly	Pep charges Initial/ Yearly	%	Brokerage %	Single/ General	Plan Manager
Allied Domecq	£300 / £25	£15	0.5	0.25 (1)	Both	B&B
Asda	£1,000 / £50	0.50	0.75 (2)	0.25	Both	Henderson
Blue Circle	£500 / na	£10	0.5 (3)	0.25	Both	NatWest
Boots	£500 / na	£10	0.5 (3)	0.25	Both	NatWest
British Airways	200 shares / £100	Nil	0.5 (3)	0.25 (4)	Both	Barclays
British Gas	*£500 / na*	£10	0.5 (3)	0.25	Both	NatWest
BP	£750 / na	Nil £10		0.25	Both	CMG
British Telecom	£1,000 / na	£15-£25	0.5	0.20	Single	Halifax
BTR	£1,500 / £100	Nil	0.5 (3)	0.50 (5)	Both	Barclays
Cadbury Schweppes	£1,000 / na	£15-£25	0.5	0.20	Single	Halifax
Forte	£500 / £50	Nil	0.5	0.25	Both	B of S
GEC	£1,500 / £100	Nil	0.5 (3)	0.50 (1)	Both	Barclays
Glaxo	£300 / £25	£15	0.5	0.25 (1)	Both	B & B
Grand Metropolitan	£300 / £25	£15	0.5	0.25 (1)	Both	B & B
Guinness	£500 / £50	Nil	0.5	0.25	Both	B of S
Hanson	£1,000 / na	0.50	0.50	0.25	Both	Henderson
ICI	£300 / £25	£15	0.5	0.25 (1)	Both	B & B
Lucas	£1,000 / na	Nil	0.5	0.20	Both	Halifax
P & O	None / none	Nil	Nil	0.25	Both	RBS
Reuters	£1,500 / na	Nil	0.5	1.00	Both	B of S
Royal Insurance	£500 / £50	£10	0.5	0.25	Both	Godwins
SmithKline Beecham	£300 / £25	£15	0.5	0.25 (1)	Both	B & B
Tate & Lyle	£300 / £25	£15	0.5	0.25 (1)	Both	B & B
Thorn EMI	£1,000 / na	Nil	0.5	0.20	Both	Halifax

Privatisation stocks with company sponsored Peps

Company	Minimum Investment Lump sum/ Monthly	Pep charges Initial/ Yearly	%	Brokerage %	Single/ General	Plan Manager
British Aerospace	*200 shares / £100*	Nil	0.5 (3)	0.50 (4)	Both	Barclays
Midland Electricity	£500 / na	£10	0.5 (3)	0.25	Both	NatWest
National Power	£300 / £25	Nil	0.5 (3)	0.25 (1)	Both	B & B
Northumbrian Water	£1,000 / £50	0.50	0.75 (2)	0.25	Both	Henderson
NORWEB	£500 / £50	Nil	0.5	0.25	Both	B of S
PowerGen	£1,000.87 / 61.53	0.50	0.75 (2)	0.25	Both	Henderson
Scottish Power	£500 / £50	Nil	0.5	0.25	Both	B of S
Scottish Electric	£500 / £50	Nil	0.5	0.25	Both	B of S
Severn Trent	£300 / £25	£15	0.5	0.25 (1)	Both	B & B
Southern Electric	£500 / £50	Nil	0.5	0.25	Both	B of S
South Wales Elec	100 shares / £100	Nil	0.5 (3)	0.50 (4)	Both	Barclays
South Western Elec	£1,000 / £50	0.50	0.75 (2)	0.25	Both	Henderson
South West Water	£1,000 / £50	0.50	0.75 (2)	0.25	Both	Henderson
Thames Water	£500 / £50	Nil	0.5	0.25	Both	B of S
Welsh Water	£1,000 / na	Nil £10		0.5 (3)	Single	BellLawrie
Yorkshire Elec	£500 / £50	£10	0.5 (3)	0.25	Both	NatWest

(1) Minimum £5, (2) Up to £6,000 then 0.5%; (3) Minimum £10; (4) Minimum £10, multi-stockgeneral Pep £15; (5) Minimum £10 single company Pep, £15 general Pep; (6) Up to £10,000 then 0.25%; (7) Minimum £20.

Bank of Scotland 0131 23 8053; Barclays Stockbrokers 01345 581000; B & B - Bradford & Bingley 01274 555555; BellLawrie White 01222 340100; CMG Registrars 01279 444488; Halifax 01422 333333; Henderson Touche Remnant 0171 638 5757; NatWest Stockbrokers 0171 895 5600; RBS - Royal Bank of Scotland 0131 523 6101



BP is one of the FT-30 index companies offering investors a company sponsored Pep. Funds can gush in to both a single company Pep and a general Pep

Where there is still value in being single

Guinness: monthly scheme

Purchasing shares via a company-sponsored Pep is one of the cheapest ways to buy shares. Companies do not promote these schemes and you are unlikely to know about them unless you are an existing shareholder or your employing company has a share scheme.

Most company-sponsored schemes offer both a general Pep and a single company Pep, so if you have no other Pep this year, you can buy up to £9,000 worth of shares in just one company via this route, using both your £6,000 annual general Pep allowance and your £3,000 annual single company Pep allowance.

In most cases, the cost of buying the shares is just 0.25 per cent for the broker's commission and 0.5 per cent stamp duty. However, there are also Pep charges levied by the plan manager. Buying via a Pep does have advantages, especially if you intend to be a long-term holder of the shares. Dividends are tax free and there is no capital gains tax upon sale of the shares.

Plan manager charges vary. For example, Bradford & Bingley, one of the biggest managers, has an initial charge of £15. However, a significant number of companies, for example, Boots, Bank of Scotland and British Gas, still make no initial charge. The annual charge is almost invariably 0.5 per cent.

For basic-rate taxpayers, the main gain is cheap share-dealing. The saving from having a Pep is likely to be marginal or even negative. The extra dividend is worth £24 a year if you buy £3,000 of shares in a single company Pep yielding 4 per cent, the average now of shares in the FT Actuaries All Share Index. The Pep annual charge is £15, leaving you just £9 a year better off. If the share pays less than 2.5 per cent, buying via a PEP costs you.

A higher-rate taxpayer, paying extra tax on dividends, is invariably better off in a Pep.

BT has a Pep on line

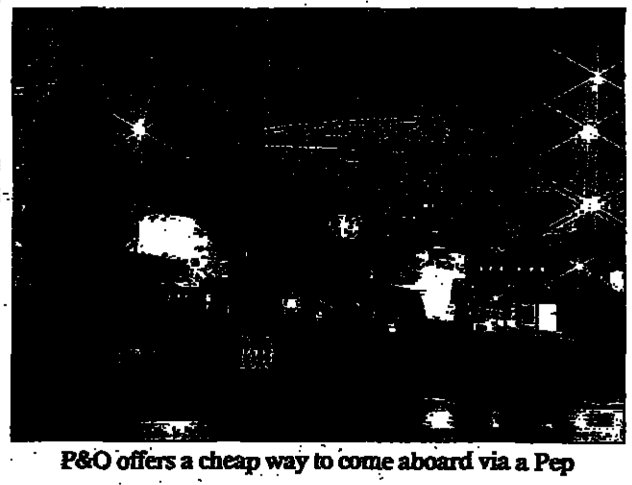
The minimum lump sum investment is normally £300 or £500, and you can invest further amounts without incurring the initial charge again. Most schemes also offer a monthly savings scheme, probably of most interest to company employees wishing to add to shares they own through the company's share scheme. However, there is nothing to stop the public using this monthly facility.

Dripping a small monthly sum into a unit trust or investment trust is one of the best ways for small investors to invest in shares. If you want to do the same with an individual company, use of a company-sponsored share scheme is the only way to do it. Some accept as little as £25 a month.

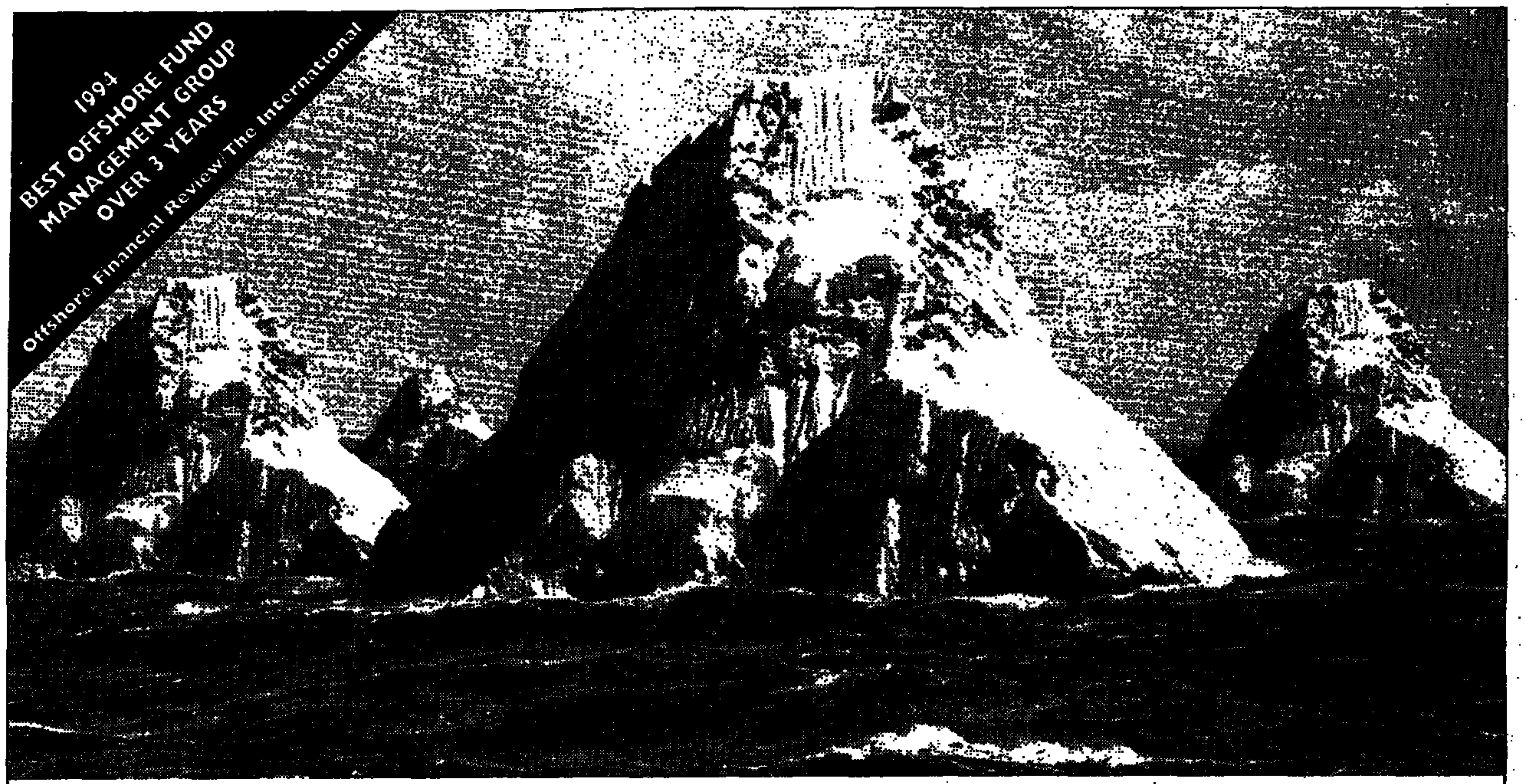
Company-sponsored share schemes are a spin-off from company share schemes and profit-sharing. Sharon Purves, of Henderson Touche Remnant, says: "Employees who receive shares in their company through one of these schemes have the right to transfer them into a single company Pep free of charge within 90 days of receiving the shares. This is only available on single company Peps, so employees are restricted to £3,000 worth of shares a year. Companies have added the general Pep facility for existing shareholders."

There is nothing to stop existing shareholders from putting their shares into a company-sponsored PEP, but Inland Revenue rules require them to sell their shares first and buy them back through the Pep. Company-sponsored Peps are geared up to offer this switching, but basic-rate taxpayers may find that it is many years before costs, of 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent, are met by tax savings on dividends.

CAROLINE PARK



P&O offers a cheap way to come aboard via a Pep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International Growth	25-1-83	+446.0	3 out of 27	+45.2
Emerging Companies	8-4-85	+553.0	1 out of 40	+127.5
American Growth	21-4-84	+702.1	1 out of 26	+126.7
Far Eastern Growth	8-11-86	+389.4	1 out of 22	+85.4
Japanese Growth	30-11-91	+48.7	5 out of 94	–
European Growth	8-11-86	+113.0	7 out of 24	+19.1
UK Growth	24-10-87	+194.4	1 out of 31	+101.4
Global Bond	7-12-92	+1.4	125 out of 149	–
Asian Smaller Markets	8-3-93	+72.5	8 out of 92	–

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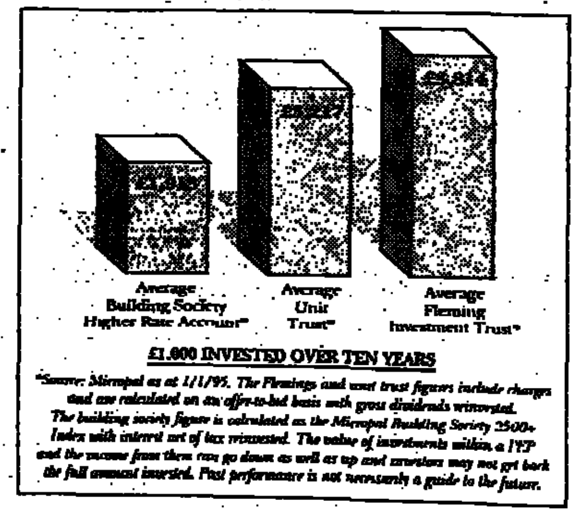

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*Source: Micropal as at 1/1/95. The Flemings and unit trust figures include charges and are calculated on an offer-to-bid basis with gross dividends reinvested. The building society figure is calculated on the Micropal Building Society 2500+ Index with interest net of tax reinvested. The value of investments within a PEP and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

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هكذا من الاهل

Shares put in late surge

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	380½	Abbey Nat	429	+ 3	4.5	14.4
314	233	Allied Irish	258	- 3	4.9	9.9
278½	171	Aus New Z	188		6.0	*
3300	2462½	Bank America	2662½		...	...
247	172½	Bank Scotland	210	- 1	3.2	11.8
640	487	Barclays	562	- 2	3.8	14.2
319	246	Bk of Ireland	303	- 2	4.8	8.8
3912½	2262½	Citicorp	2562½	- 12½	..	..
385½	203	Close Bros	229		4.2	10.1
£150½	£121½	Commerzbk	£131½	+ 84½	6.3	..
1296½	993½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1016½	- 9½	0.5	..
£344½	£270½	Deutsche Bk	£291	+ 278½	2.4	
1315½	743½	Espirito Santo	753½		5.0	3.8
90	57	First Nat Fin	66		2.8	*
1549½	1152½	Fuji Bank Y	1207½		8.4	*
473	209	Hambros	242	- 1	7.7	14.9
1113	589	HSBC	631	+ 6	4.9	9.1
1133	578	HSBC HK	619	+ 5	4.9	9.0
443	393	Joseph (L)	393	...	5.6	11.4
693	424	Kleinwort Ben	620	+ 19	3.3	10.9
660	519	Lloyds	561	- 3	5.2	10.8
620½	472	Nat Aust Bk	506		7.0	*
622	421	Nat West	491	- 2	4.9	9.6
3300	2100	[illegible] Bank	2158		6.8	*
79	53	Rea Bros	66		1.8	18.5
528	373½	Royal Bk Scot	394	+ 4	4.4	11.3
1574	1050	Schroders	1466	+ 25	1.6	13.4
1458	1043	Schroders N/V	1315	+ 17	1.8	12.0
114	75	Singer & Fried	86		4.8	10.9
359½	223	Stand Chart	253	- 9	3.1	8.7
391	197	TSB	243	+ 1	4.7	*
1012	568	Warburg SG	758	+ 11	3.6	13.9
£105	8612½	Wells Fargo	9212½	+ 62½	3.1	
260	194	Westpac	215½	- ½	2.5	*
390	203	Wintrust	215	..	6.0	14.4

BREWERIES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1025	150	Ascot Hldgs	154	...		
619	485	Bass	523	+ 6	5.0	12.9
280	248	Boddington	249	- 2	4.2	13.3
196	168	Burtonwood Brwy	173		3.7	14.5
181	142	Eldridge P 'A'†	158	...	3.2	*
68	46½	Fosters Brewing	54		5.3	
493	342	Fuller Sm 'A'	352	- 1	2.8	14.6
511	399	Greenalls Grp	427	+ 2	3.8	21.2
584	452	Greene King	522	- 1	3.1	14.2
267	239	Hardy Hanson	258		4.6	
170	135	Heavitree	150		3.4	13.5
3773	3125	Holt J	3430	..	1.8	18.8
247	195	Mansfield	247		2.4	15.1
314	256	Marston Thmp	298	..	2.5	14.5
545	440	Morland	480	- 3	2.9	13.8
10½	6½	Paramount	7	...	3.6	..
329	308	Regent Inns	322	..	2.1	24.7
1665½	1000	SA Brewerics	1368½	..	2.1	21.5
591	477	Scot & Newt	511	+ 5	4.3	14.6
306	215	Vaux Group†	325	..	5.5	12.7
491	324½	Wetherspoon JD	487		1.8	25.7
617	494	Whitbread†	568	+ 3	4.2	15.5
589	493	Wolvrhmptn D	504	- 1	3.4	13.3
308	148	Yates Brost	196		2.4	15.4
535	458	Young 'A'	458		4.1	19.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
205	130	Abbeyrt	139		4.9	9.7
200	143	Allen†	145	+ 1	4.8	13.8
164	61	Amec	61	- 1½	6.1	35.2
165	47	Andrews Sykes	148			
482	333	Ashtead	430		1.6	26.8
191	98	Avonside	99		5.6	11.6
41	35	Bailey (Ben) Con	35		2.5	21.4
88	18½	Barcom	43	+ 2		
292	139	Barratt Devs	186		4.5	12.9
169	122	Beazer Homes	131	+ 3	5.2	10.3
304	179	Bellway	189	...	4.6	11.2

BUILDING MATERIALS

BUSINESS SERVICES

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
127	99	ABI Leist	99	..	5.1	11.4
317	249	Acatt	309	...	2.8	16.2
595	253	Adam & Harvey	595	...	3.3	7.5
31	21	Alexanders	21	...	3.0	19.5
176	107	Appleyard	107	...	6.8	18.9
6	3½	Ass Br Eng	4½	...	1.3	33.9
578	485	BSS Group	523	..	4.4	18.4
25½	17	[illegible]	23	+ ½	5.4	11.8
405	248	Blatchley Mirt	253	.	5.2	18.4
40	28	Bogod 'A'†	28	...	3.1	11.8
370	288	Brammer	347	...	4.7	19.3
31	15	Brigend Gp	15	...	1.7	78.0
99	78	Brit Fittings	94	...	3.0	.
71	40	Brown & Tawse	45	...	..	...
57	35	Bundeest	38	..	6.3	
465	245	Caffyns	263	..	5.5	43.2
59	20½	Castel Pict	21½	.	8.4	11.9
130	78	Central Mtr	78	..	4.5	
51	32½	Cook (DC)	40	- 1	3.6	12.3
342½	197½	Cowie	226		5.8	17.2
192½	127	Dag Motors	138		5.9	15.9
883	446	[illegible]	590	- 3	1.4	14.5
628	414½	Diploma	444		3.8	16.6
589	449	Electrocomponts	482	- 2	2.7	19.7
175	133	Electron House	153		2.7	13.7
283	225	Ellis & Everard	259	- 2	3.9	16.8
234	201	Eurodollar	201	..	5.3	15.7
173	108	European Mtr	110	..	5.1	12.0
539½	381	Evans Halshaw	381	- 2	4.7	12.0
656	490½	Farnell Elect	536		1.9	22.0
78	50	Fife Indmar	55	...	8.2	8.1
34	15	Gardiner	15	..	8.2	7.1
46	19	Glencheston	21½			23.7
90	60	Gowrings	71	...	3.5	21.5
76	59	Hallin Hldgs	78	..		54.6
172	122	Harris (Philip)	171	...	5.0	15.0
342½	261	Heylys	282	..	3.6	14.0
191	88	Holders Tech	97	..	7.7	10.5
138	107	ISA Intl	107		2.8	13.4
609	311	Inchcape	317½	+ 6½	5.9	10.6
68	35	Jacks (Wm)	55			12.7
184	145	Kwik-Fit	155	- 1	3.2	17.8
573	291	Lex Service	295½	- ½	5.7	11.3
282	162	Lookers	186		5.2	*
30	14	Malaya Grp	14½		2.2	
9	3½	Middlesex ©	7½	+ ½	...	
440	279	Norpaint	400	...	0.7	17.8
100	47	Northamber†	81	...	1.8	38.8
175	152	PCT	152	..	6.1	14.7
310	232	Pendragon	237	..	4.0	15.6
238	135	Perry Gp	138	..	8.6	7.3
218	126	Quicks Group	126	..	6.2	13.3
188	97	REA	165	...	4.5	34.1
5½	2½	Reece	2½	...	...	...
24	4	Ross Gp	5½	...	4.5	..
42	32½	SEP Ind	39½	...	3.4	
44	31	TLS Range	43	..	2.9	17.3
265	215	Time Products	227	...	4.8	15.3
221	161	Vardy (Reg)	168		3.9	12.4
335	240	Wholesale Ftgs	243	+ 3	6.1	21.4
30½	13½	Wills Gp	17	..	3.7	9.5
74½	39½	Wilshaw†	70	..	1.2	23.6
69	40	Wyko†	61	..	2.0	...
96	61	Young (H)	77		5.8	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
302	148	Adwest	150½	...	6.2	15.4
380	199½	Antofagasta	313	...	1.4	25.3
62	47	Armour	47	...	4.8	9.8
997	773½	Broken Hill	813	...	2.3	19.1
401	273	BTR	304½	+ 1½	5.1	16.1
570	372	BAT	440½	- 1½	5.8	11.8
91	49	Bibby Lfit	82	+	4.6	15.2
57½	44	Brierley Inv	45½	- ½	9.5	*
836	636½	Charter	774	- 1	3.7	22.7
285	223	Cookson	224	- 1	3.6	20.3
302	217½	Hanson	232½	- 1	6.5	16.0
220	136	Harrisn Crsfld	142	- 1	7.9	16.2
365½	200½	Hutch Whamp	227½	+ 2½	2.5	16.1
710	409½	Jardine Math	444½	+ 1½	3.3	10.3
36	27½	Jourdan (T)	29		4.3	28.8
175½	129½	Lonrho	155½	+ 2	3.7	26.8

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
119	94	IBS UK Smlr	97		3.6	
129	124	Inv Cap	125	...	5.3	..
99	86	Intl Biotech	86	..		
50	30	Intl Wts	31	..		
177	126	INVESCO Korea	132	..		
122	88½	J Fry 2nd U	91	..	8.8	
100	93	J Fry Euro U	93	.	6.5	..
255	187	JF Fledg Jap	196	...		..
121	101	Jupiter Intl Gm	101	...	4.2	
243	194	Klnwt Chrl	197½		3.3	
149	100	Klnwt E Mkt	103	..		..
124	105	Klnwt End	117	- 1		
88½	73	Klnwt Euro Prvt	75	+ ½	1.3	
49	22½	Klnwt Euro Wts	23½			
116	79	Klnwt H Inc	81		11.8	
272½	220	Klnwt O'seas	221	...	1.9	
165	123	Klnwt Smlr	123		3.2	
201	95½	Latin American	105½			
826	672	Law Debenture	723	+ 4	3.4	..
129	93	Lazard H Inc	95½	+ ½	8.3	
97	79	Lloyds Sm Cap	79	..		
35	28	Lloyds Sm Div	29		15.3	
129	107	Lloyds Sm Prg	108		4.1	
174	141	Lon St Lawrence	163		4.8	
108	78½	Lon Smaller Co's	81	+ 1	4.9	..
180	119	M Currie Pac	120		0.3	
227	190	Majedie	194½		3.4	..
57	44	[illegible]	57	+ 2		
324	237	Merchants†	252		5.6	
90	79½	Mercury Euro Pv	80½	+ ½	0.9	..
45	25½	Mercury Eur Wt	25½	+ ½		
125	86	Mercury World	90	+ ½		
52½	23	Mercury Wld Wts	24	+ ½		
565	482	Monks Inv Tst	495	+ 5	1.8	..
158	126	Morg Gren Inc	134		4.5	
64	39	Morg Wts	42			
111	60	Morg Lat Amer	69½	- 1		
65	33	Morg Wts	37			
148	104	Murray Ent▼	106	..	2.5	..
92	79	Murray Eng Eco	81			
68	54	Murray Euro	57½		0.6	
393	308	Murray Incomt	315		4.7	

LEISURE & HOTELS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
256	114	Chrysalis	256		1.6	37.8
94	74	City Centre Rest	77	.	2.9	15.6
374	305	Compass Gp	319	- 1	2.7	16.4
290	232	Eurocamp	254		5.3	15.3
213	78	Euro Disney	147	+ 1		
4	2	Euro Leisure	2½	.	..	
455	308	Fairline Boats	448	.	4.4	30.2
131	81	First Choice	118		4.2	*
350	245	First Leisure	285	- 1	5.1	18.0
285	209½	Forte	240	- 3	3.9	28.4
207	160	Friendly Hotels	160		4.5	26.8
79	49	GR Hldgs	55		2.5	
598	475	Granada	482		2.6	14.4
96	34	Hi-Tec Sports	35		9.9	6.1
216	118	Hornby	118	- 1	9.5	10.3
173½	142½	Jurys Hotel	173	+ 9½	4.0	15.6
18½	11½	Kunick	18	+ 1	3.6	*
289	200	London Clubs	278		5.4	14.2
217½	145	Ladbroke	166	- 2	2.6	29.3
104	61	Magnolia	61		0.2	
149½	107½	Man Utd	136		4.2	21
109½	64½	Mandarin Orntl	76½	- 1½	4.1	20.4
15	11½	My Kinda Town	12½	.	.	
81	54	Northern	72		5.2	11.9
102	65½	Pelican Grp	80		2.0	16.7
141	109	PizzaExpress	124		2.0	19.1

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MEDIA

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
365	270	Abbott Mead	339		2.2	30.7
355	198	Adscene	305	..	2.7	21.8
33	17½	Aegis Gp	27			.
11½	5½	Allied Radio	7	+ ½		
26	13	BBB Design	13			35.9
235	155	Barbour Index	184	.	6.0	15.2
13½	5½	[illegible]	5½			
345	320	Black (A&C)	330		5.3	11.6
402	178	Blenheim Gp	185	+ 2	7.0	6.9
205	133	Border TV†	203	+ 1	2.6	17.8
413	353	Bristol†	354		4.4	36.0
259	245	B Sky B	256½	+ 2	.	48.3

MINING

OIL & GAS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
187	116	Sunrise Eng Sv	#116			
4237½	3431½	Total	3578½	- 18½	5.0	*
19	9½	Wiltes Grp	9½			
245	178½	Woodside	235		1.6	.
110	29	XCL	45	.	.	

OTHER FINANCIAL

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
165	75	BMD	77		6.8	8.3
130	98	Baltic Plc	127	.	2.0	8.0
125	73	Berry Brch Nbl	76		8.4	11.5
215	150	Bolex Inc	150	- 1		
154	108	Brewin Dolphin	118		6.1	8.7
757	620	Caledonia	634	- 8	3.3	17.3
2650	1300	[illegible]	2256		1.8	6.0
22½	18	Carlisle	18	- ½	1.7	
630½	440	Cater Allen	443	- 2	9.0	9.1
174½	125	Cattles	149		4.4	16.7
85	33	[illegible]	33			72.9
16	12	EPG	12		0.9	9.1
71½	45½	EFT Group	63½	- ½	3.4	13.4
745	513	EFM	714		4.2	21.4
212	158	Exco	174	.	6.1	4.9
229	157	Gartmore	179½		2.8	20.7
515	395	Gerrard Nat	474	- 1	6.3	13.7
465	325	Govett	326	- 16	5.6	5.4

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
11½	7½	ERA Gp	9			
294	134	Essex Furn	135	...	4.0	14.9
326	200	[illegible]	201		4.5	11.1
558	344	Fine Art Dev	344	- 1	5.3	10.5
68	46	First Earth	63	.	.	
106	71	Flying Flowers	84	.	1.6	16.2
278	124	French Conn	272			11.5
264	205	Frost Group	209	- 2	3.2	21.1
66	49	Greves	56		3.3	30.0
136	85	Goldsmiths Gp	138		1.9	27.0
652	495	GUS†	515	- 1	2.3	14.8
196	164	Hardys	191		3.1	18.4
36	21	Hampden Grp	31	- 2	4.0	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Hse of Fraser	162	- ½	3.9	14.6

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WATER

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
365	333	Mid Kent Hdgs	338	+ 3	4.5	11.1
611	454	North West	495	- 3	6.0	7.1
751	508	Northumbrian	686	- 4	4.7	7.4
645	457	Severn Trent	494	- 5	5.9	8.2
1895	1525	South Staffs	1885		3.6	11.4
675	459	South West	477	- 3	6.9	7.1
682	466	Southern	531	- 5	5.6	7.7
611	434½	Thames	463	- 4	6.2	7.0
744	546	Welsh	587	- 1	5.6	6.5
379½	261	Wessex	275	- 2	5.5	7.2
630	458	Yorkshire	486	- 4	6.0	7.1

Source: Finstat

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures on report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1994/95 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
109	97	Gas 3% 1990-95	99		3.02	6.06
107	101	Exch 10½% 1995	101	-	10.08	6.70
113	104	Treas 12¾% 1995	104	-	12.20	6.83
117	106	Treas 14% 1996	106		13.15	7.07
121	109	Treas 15¼% 1996	109		13.95	7.48
117	106	Exch 13¼% 1996	108	..	12.33	7.53
112	103	Conv 10% 1996	103	+	9.67	7.90
100	98	Treas 7% 1997	97 †	-	7.17	8.12
121	109	Treas 13¼% 1997	109	+	12.12	8.05
114	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104 †	+	10.05	8.10
110	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	101 †	-	8.66	8.31
131	115	Exch 15% 1997	115	+	12.96	8.40
114	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	103	-	9.44	8.49
106	95	Treas 7¼% 1998	96	-	7.53	8.47
102	93	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	95	-	7.09	8.49
131	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	115	+	12.15	8.63
140	121	Treas 15½% 1998	121	-	12.78	8.55
125	110	Exch 12% 1998	110	-	10.84	8.64
116	100	Treas 9½% 1999	103	-	9.22	8.57
128	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	112	-	10.91	8.66
121	105	Treas 10½% 1999	108	+	9.83	8.63
101	88	Treas 6% 1999	90 †	+	6.63	8.57
121	104	Conv 10¼% 1999	106	-	9.66	8.66

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1994/95 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
116	97	Conv 9% 2000	101 †	+	8.86	8.60
98	96	Treas 8% 2000	97	+	8.21	8.55
136	116	Treas 13% 2000	118	+	10.99	8.71
122	103	Treas 10% 2001	105 †	+	9.45	8.75
106	88	Treas 7% 2001	91	+	7.64	8.65
129	102	Treas 9¾% 2002	105 †	+	9.25	8.76
113	92	Treas 8% 2003	96	+	8.33	8.67
127	104	Treas 10% 2003	107	-	9.31	8.75
129	109	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112	+	10.25	8.89
86	69	Fund 3½% 1999-04	74	+	4.72	7.32
125	101	Conv 9½% 2004	105	-	9.03	8.68
105	84	Treas 6¾% 2004	87	+	7.68	8.59
100	97	Treas 8½% 2005	99	-	8.55	8.56
125	102	Conv 9½% 2005	105	-	9.00	8.66
143	118	Treas 12½% 2003-05	121	+	10.30	8.94
112	90	Treas 7¾% 2006	93	+	8.26	8.59
111	91	Treas 8% 2002-06	95	-	8.39	8.83
136	112	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	115	-	10.17	8.97
119	95	Treas 8½% 2007	99	-	8.56	8.58
151	124	Treas 13½% 2004-08	127	-	10.58	8.96
124	99	Treas 9% 2008	103	-	8.71	8.57
115	91	Treas 8% 2009	95	-	8.39	8.56

LONGS (over 15 years)

1994/95 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
98	77	Treas 6¼% 2010	80	-	7.72	8.45
125	100	Conv 9% 2011	104	+	8.65	8.54
127	100	Treas 9% 2012	104 †	-	8.64	8.53
93	71	Treas 5½% 2008-12	74	+	7.40	8.39
117	92	Treas 8% 2013	95	-	8.38	8.48
114	89	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	92	-	8.34	8.49
128	99	Treas 8¾% 2017	102 †	+	8.50	8.45
159	126	Exch 12% 2013-17	130	-	9.20	8.68

UNDATED

1994/95 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
54	39	War Ln 3½%	41	+	8.44	..
37	27	Treas 2½%	29	+	8.62	

INDEX-LINKED

1994/95 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
203	197	Treas IL 2% 1996	202	-	2.33	3.93
113	106	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	107	-	2.89	3.78
176	162	Treas IL 2½% 2001	168	-	3.46	3.90
173	159	Treas IL 2½% 2003	162	+	3.55	3.91
118	107	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	108	+	3.55	3.88
184	165	Treas IL 2% 2006	169	+	3.62	3.88
168	149	Treas IL 2½% 2009	153	+	3.67	3.89
175	154	Treas IL 2½% 2011	158 †	+	3.70	3.90
146	126	Treas IL 2½% 2013	130 †	+	3.71	3.89
157	134	Treas IL 2½% 2016	138	+	3.73	3.90
152	128	Treas IL 2½% 2020	132	+	3.76	3.90
129	106	Treas IL 2½% 2024	110	-	3.75	3.88
128	105	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	109	-	3.78	3.91

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
0895 259 783				
Gartland Amer	153.90	162.80	+ 0.39	0.18
Gartland Equity	223.60	237.90	− 0.30	2.11
Gartland Euro	189.80	200.90	− 1.90	0.47
Gartland East Bd	104.80	108.60	− 2.20	3.96
Gartland Gilt	72.31	74.54	+ 0.35	5.13
Gartland Japan	159.50	168.70	− 9.50	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
0203 553 231				
General Acc	506.80	538.10	− 1.40	2.94
General Inc	446.10	474.60	− 0.50	2.94
UK Growth Acc	341.00	362.80	− 1.80	3.02
UK Growth Inc	283.40	240.30	− 0.80	3.02
Higher Inc Acc	643.10	681.80	− 2.80	4.21
Higher Inc Inc	360.90	383.20	− 2.00	4.21
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	182.80	192.70	+ 0.80	6.07
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	88.49	93.47	+ 0.40	6.07
Nth America	251.60	267.10	− 2.80	..
Far East	312.20	332.20	− 5.90	0.36
Europe	255.70	272.10	− 2.80	0.95
Brit Excell	67.92	72.26	+ 0.26	3.23
Brit Fndmtls Acc	97.19	103.40	− 0.50	4.97
Brit Fndmtls Inc	71.20	75.84	− 0.55	4.97
Global Opps	78.73	83.76	− 0.41	0.49
Balanced Acc	51.35	54.63†	+ 1.13	3.19
Balanced Inc	49.69	53.29†	− 0.21	3.19
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	126.10	133.90†	+ 0.50	7.97
High Inc Equity	151.50	162.00†	− 1.70	4.88
Worldwide Bond	257.60	273.30	− 0.60	5.56
Capital Growth				
American Growth	264.40	283.90†	− 3.70	..
Asian Pacific	274.50	292.00	− 7.40	..
Assets & Earnings	243.50	259.00	− 3.00	3.07
Commodity & Energy	100.00	106.40	− 2.40	..
Euro Capital Inc	125.80	134.30	− 1.40	.72
(Accum Units)	134.20	143.50	− 1.50	.72
General	214.90	228.60	− 1.50	2.38
Japan	113.80	121.70	− 4.80	
Mastertrust	130.50	138.60	− 2.30	1.78
UK Growth Dist	113.80	121.80	− 1.80	2.83
US Emerging Cos	128.80	135.70	− 3.40	
Income & Growth	359.50	382.40	− 3.90	3.27
Ethical	64.33	68.44	− 0.62	3.06
International	106.30	113.10	− 1.80	1.13
Dividend & Growth	56.61	60.22†	− 0.57	4.67
Global Cash & Sec	65.96	70.34	− 0.12	2.99
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
031 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	£16.12	£16.79	− 12.00	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European Portfolio	92.60	98.11	− 0.63	0.80
Japanese Portfolio	59.73	63.43†	− 2.72	..
Pacific Portfolio	124.49	133.07	− 3.56	0.97
UK Inc & Growth	72.04	77.34	+ 0.06	3.48
Utility & Bond	53.64	54.23	+ 0.01	7.89
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
071 588 1815				
Inv Fund	645.65	651.70	...	4.75
Fxd In Sec	147.90	147.45	..	9.83
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
071 332 9000				
UK General Tst	59.07	62.83†	− 0.67	3.16
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
071 588 1815				
Inc	636.32	640.19	..	4.80
Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	...
Fixed Int Inc	118.50	119.75	...	9.69
Fixed Int Acc	185.16	185.45	...	...
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
071 937 7067				
Intl Growth	109.66	119.11	− 8.09	..
UK Income	98.49	107.50	− 5.45	5.58
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
071 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	71.54	76.04	− 1.59	1.60
Buck Bio-Tech	24.30	25.97†	− 0.45	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	145.18	162.62†	− 0.13	0.73
City Fin Assets	63.26	67.30	− 1.90	1.33
City Fin America	79.77	83.97	− 0.56	..
City Fin Intl	69.46	73.12	− 2.38	0.59
City Fin Japan	151.18	159.14†	− 11.53	..
Friars Hse Cap	252.67	273.74†	− 7.10	2.01
Friars Hse Inc	181.55	193.14	− 5.74	4.26
Buckley Wrld Gwth	114.25	121.54	− 8.49	0.19
Falcrest Cap Gth	127.26	135.36	− 4.10	..
Fairmount Intl	138.36	147.21	− 3.98	..
City Fin Plflo Inc	50.49	53.71†	− 0.58	4.49
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
071 711 0771 Admin: 0277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	50.41	53.49	− 1.25	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	52.52	56.10	− 0.82	...
Atlas Magal Gwth	33.39	35.61	− 0.56	0.50
Dragon Growth	58.62	62.70	− 1.07	0.56
Equity High Inc	77.15	82.07	− 0.75	4.26
(Accum Units)	103.74	110.36	− 1.00	4.26
European Gwth	47.47	50.50	− 0.52	0.89
Evergreen	26.80	28.54	− 0.25	...
General Equity	77.97	82.73	− 0.59	2.75
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	23.61	24.81†	+ 0.01	8.67
Japan Growth	45.94	50.20	− 1.58	..
Pedigree Gwth	47.05	50.05	− 0.51	2.79
Ped Smr Cos Inc	28.76	30.60	− 0.08	1.26
(Accum Units)	29.86	31.79	− 0.09	1.26
Retirement Inc #	24.35	25.90	− 0.25	6.22
Special Sits	35.46	37.72	− 0.23	2.15
UK & Overseas	43.92	46.72	− 0.57	1.53

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
(Accum Units)	146.20	151.50	− 2.30	..
Euro Smaller Cos	26.69	27.69	− 0.22	..
French Growth	69.50	72.14	− 0.74	0.33
Accum Units	74.48	77.28	− 0.80	0.33
H Kong & China	63.97	66.40†	− 1.02	2.80
Intl Growth	53.13	55.14	− 0.61	0.57
(Accum Units)	53.58	55.61	− 0.61	0.57
Japan Gth	31.15	32.33	− 1.23	...
Accum Units	31.15	32.33	− 1.23	..
Japan Smaller Cos	39.20	40.68	− 1.07	..
Glob Emg Mkts	87.98	91.32	− 2.51	...
Accum Units	88.60	91.96	− 2.54	..
SE Asia	275.98	286.30	− 4.40	0.39
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	50.98	52.52	+ 0.01	6.16

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
(Accum Units)	171.10	181.10	− 2.78	3.63
Smaller Cos	66.00	69.80	− 0.70	3.22
(Accum Units)	129.60	137.10	− 1.30	3.22
Sterling Fi Int	22.78	23.87†	+ 0.23	8.78
Treasury	25.01	25.85†	− 0.05	5.80
Tricks	38.90	41.30	− 0.40	4.70
(Accum Units)	156.80	165.90	− 1.30	4.70
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0277 261 010 Enq: 0903 204 631				
European Growth	75.28	80.08	− 1.32	0.95
Intl Bond	58.71	62.78	+ 0.12	5.70
Intl Equity Growth	65.01	69.13	− 0.90	0.65
N Amer Growth	88.96	94.65	− 0.45	1.62
Special Sits Growth	20.19	21.47	− 0.17	1.78

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
071 581 3020				
American Cap	124.30	132.10	+ 0.20	.
Income	139.42	148.31†	− 0.83	4.04
UK Growth	51.31	54.58†	+ 0.09	0.96
International	70.69	75.29†	− 1.59	0.30
Ecology	74.04	78.76	− 2.31	1.86
European	115.31	122.45	− 0.08	..
Far Eastern	272.40	289.80	− 7.40	.
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 071 859 7354				
Income Trusts				
Extra Income	47.12	50.13†	+ 0.57	7.68

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Growth	347.80	369.10	− 2.10	2.85
(Accum Units)	452.60	481.40	− 2.80	2.85
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01920 825067				
Balanced Fd #	£12.18	£12.42	− 9.40	3.30
Income #	916.50	931.08†	− 12.50	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
071 222 4342				
Maldon General	134.80	138.60	− 1.70	4.30
MANULIFE MANAGEMENT LTD				
Dealings: 0438 747 414				

England can ill-afford games being called off

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

IRONY is probably not the word Rugby Football Union (RFU) administrators would grasp for if the weather badly disrupts the fifth round of the Pilkington Cup today. Having decided that England players would be permitted to appear for their clubs, despite the impending game with France, postponements in this crowded season are undesirable.

The England management has not altered the agreement reached earlier this season, restricting the league games to be played by their players before international matches, despite hints to the contrary from the two basement clubs in the first division, Northampton and Harlequins. League survival for both is more important than cup glory, and they hoped that resting players today (they contribute one third of the team to play France) might earn them an additional league game later in the season.

No such trade-off has been agreed, although this has not stopped Northampton resting Tim Rodber and Martin Bayfield for the game against Richmond. "I had always said I would respect the wishes of the players and they obviously felt happier to think about preparations for the French match," Ian McGeechan, the club's director of rugby, said.

"If we haven't got them anyway in two weeks' time [against Sale in the league], then it gives this side another game together." For their part, Harlequins go fully-armoured to London Irish, which allows Will Greenwood to play centre for the first time this season with Will Carling.

If any games are postponed, they must be played before the date of the next round, February 25, either by mutual agreement between the clubs concerned or at the direction of the RFU competitions sub-committee. Exeter have sanded the County Ground for their game with Aspatria, who have benefited from a video made by David Pears, the England and Harlequins back, whose career began with the Cumbrian club. He watched Exeter play Rosslyn Park a fortnight ago.

Leicester and Wakefield, escaping the snows, will find a watery welcome at Bristol and Lydney, respectively. Lydney may be the lowliest club still in the competition, but they are challenging for promotion from the fifth division south and their cup run includes victory against Reading, which they believe was their best performance this season. There will be a pitch inspection at Regentsholme at 8am.

It would be a brave man who predicts the winner at Bristol; the Memorial Ground is not a venue that Leicester enjoy. They have not won a league game there since 1990, and defeat last November cost them the leadership of the first division. Bristol field exactly the same XV, but it may be significant that Leicester, though without the injured Martin Johnson today, will have Dean Richards, Graham Rowntree and Tony Underwood, all of whom missed the league defeat.

Bath, the league leaders and cup holders, travel to Orrell without the injured Ben Clarke (calf) and Simon Geoghegan (groin). Clarke's late withdrawal allows Steve Ojomoh a place at No 8 but Jeremy Guscott, Mike Catt and Victor Ubogu — who admits he would have preferred to rest after his exertions in Dublin last weekend — all play.

Bath's previous cup visits to Edge Hall Road include a 16-16 draw in 1986, when they went through only as the away side; three years ago, they lost there in the league. "We have to be on top of our game and if everyone plays to their potential, we are capable of winning," Sammy Southern, the Orrell director of rugby, said. "I would sooner play Bath now than later in the competition and we remind ourselves that two years ago they went to Waterloo and lost." But Bath remind themselves of that, too, and they seldom make the same mistake twice.

MARTIN McCULLOUGH

Evans is looking forward to returning for Llanelli after recovering from injury

Llanelli welcome back Evans

IF THE weather relents, Welsh rugby will today welcome back Ieuan Evans and even Glynneath, Llanelli's opponents in the fifth round of the Swalec Cup, will raise a cheer (David Hands writes). Max ("I am an entertainer") Boyce, their president, might even compose a song suitable for the occasion after a four-month absence by the national captain.

Evans suffered a severe dislocation of his ankle and a broken fibula playing for Llanelli against Cardiff in October, but came through a demanding physical session on Thursday night to reclaim his place on the right wing against the fourth-division side at Abernant Park. Since Nigel Davies, another long-term international casualty, also returns, things may be looking up for Llanelli.

They have, of course, lost Ricky Evans since the international in Paris last weekend, the prop having sustained an injury very similar to that of Ieuan Evans. Llanelli's answer is to move Huw Williams-Jones across to the loose-head position and bring in Spencer John for a match that ought to be routine for Llanelli, nine times winners of the cup, save that little has been routine this season.

Cardiff, the cup-holders, also face fourth-division opponents: neither Pyle's name nor their location (overlooking Port Talbot) may be as exotic as Tevita Manaseitava, their guitar-playing Fijian centre, but the club has climbed to the top of the division this season, scoring a hatful of tries through Manaseitava and Doug Burgess, the wing.

During the 1991 World Cup, Brian Lima caused Wales all kinds of problems by his performances on the wing for Western Samoa, but he may be lost to the 1995 tournament should he complete his signing for the Australian rugby league club, North Sydney. Lima's representatives are wrangling over a fee.

☐ After their outstanding 30-3 win over the Australian Schools, England retain an unchanged XV for their meeting at Leicester next Wednesday with the New Zealand Schools.

Schwer bids to join select list of champions

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing correspondent

BILLY SCHWER faces the toughest task of his boxing career in Las Vegas today when he tries to bring the world lightweight championship back to Britain. If he succeeds, he will match the achievements of Ted "Kid" Lewis, Ken Buchanan, Alan Minter, Lloyd Honeyghan and Dennis Andries, the only British boxers to have succeeded in winning world titles in the United States. Such a statistic is a measure of the task that he faces.

Schwer meets Rafael Ruelas, the International Boxing Federation champion. The Mexican-American is a class above anyone the Englishman has met, but he is not comparable to the great Alexis Arguello, of Nicaragua, or Roberto Duran, of Panama. Schwer, therefore, is not without a chance.

The Luton man is one of the most accomplished boxers in Britain. Despite being a forward-moving type, he can be difficult to catch because of good body movement and footwork. He has an excellent repertoire of punches and he lands them with precision.

In addition, the champion's chin is thought to vulnerable. He was knocked out in two rounds by Mauro Gutierrez and floored twice by Freddie Pendleton. Ruelas is not difficult to hit, as Oscar Pacheco, his last opponent, showed. However, Ruelas is a polished performer with some slick moves that could land Schwer in awkward situations. Apart from the champion's greater experience — 43 wins out of 44 contests to Schwer's 26 wins out of 27 — two important factors go against the Englishman: his tendency to cut and Ruelas's height advantage. The champion is 5ft 11in, which is Mike Tyson's height. It is said that he has Tyson's reach, as well.

It is not difficult to see Ruelas using his 3in height advantage to keep Schwer out and go to work on any injury around his eyes. However long the bout lasts, Schwer can be expected to give a good account of himself. Ruelas is already talking about meeting Oscar De La Hoya, the World Boxing Organisation champion, next, and, if he has taken Schwer at all lightly, he could be in for a surprise.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hendry run brought to an abrupt halt

STEPHEN HENDRY, the world snooker champion, yesterday lost for the first time since mid October — to Chris Small, a player ranked 86th in the world (Phil Yates writes). Small collected his shock 5-1 victory in the quarter-finals of the Regal Welsh Open at Newport. Hendry, unbeaten in 20 matches since he lost 5-2 to Dave Harold at the corresponding stage of the Skoda Grand Prix, was expected to dispose of his fellow Scot with the minimum of fuss.

However, Small, 21, a former bank clerk from Edinburgh, entered the match on a high having dropped only four frames in six matches and whitewashing Nigel Bond, the No 11 seed, in the first round. "I knew after taking Stephen to 5-4 the last time that I could beat him here because I am better prepared and I am generally playing better," Small said. "I don't fear anyone."

Auguin leads the way

YACHTING: Fourteen sailors, four of them British, set out from Sydney tomorrow bound for Cape Horn on the longest and most hazardous leg of the BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race (Barry Pickthall writes). The 7,200-mile stage, through the roaring forty latitudes, promises freezing temperatures, fog and storm-force winds, but the greatest concern is icebergs. Christophe Auguin, the Frenchman who won this race four years ago, holds a 37-hour advantage over the Steve Pettengill, from the United States, at the halfway stage of this second circumnavigation.

Mansell's path clear

MOTOR RACING: Nigel Mansell yesterday moved a step closer to a Formula One drive when McLaren announced their preliminary line-up for the 1995 season. Speculation that Ron Dennis, the McLaren team manager, had reached agreement with Mansell increased when Mika Hakkinen was named as their second driver, leaving the No 1 place open. Jordan, who have retained Rubens Barrichello and Eddie Irvine, launched its new car yesterday.

Wales call up Bonatti

BOWLS: John Bonatti, best known as a crown-green player in North Wales, has been chosen to play on the flat for Wales in the British indoor team championship in Nottingham in March (David Rhys Jones writes). Bonatti is one of four new caps in the side, along with Roy Greenslade, Jeff Webley and Barrie Evans. Six former internationals have been recalled and three new skips — Mike Prosser, Steve Rees and Phil Rowlands — have been given their own rinks.

Cannock step up chase

HOCKEY: The strength of Cannock's challenge for the national league first division title will be easier to gauge after the match at Southgate tomorrow (Sydney Friskin writes). A month ago, Southgate's prospects looked none too bright, but, having beaten Havant 1-0 last Sunday, they are also now in hot pursuit of Surbiton, the leaders. Cannock, who are unbeaten, are in second place.

Hammond aims high

CYCLING: Roger Hammond, of Great Britain, the junior world cyclo-cross champion in 1992, is among the favourites for the inaugural espoirs European title race at Eschenbach, Switzerland, today. The event, for riders aged 19 to 22, replaces the amateur world title contest. Hammond lost his national title a fortnight ago to Barrie Clarke, who leads the British team in the "open" world championships tomorrow.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Cup
Fourth round
(—) *Burnley v Liverpool
(—) Coventry v Norwich
(—) Leeds v Oldham
(—) *Luton v Southampton
(—) *Manchester City v Aston Villa
(—) *Manchester Utd v Wrexham
(—) *Millwall v Chelsea
(—) *Newcastle v Swansea
(—) Nottingham Forest v C Palace
(1) Portsmouth v Leicester
(—) *QPR v West Ham
(—) Watford v Swindon

FA Carling Premiership
(—) Blackburn v Ipswich

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	24	17	4	3	52	19	55
Man Utd	26	16	6	4	47	21	54
Liverpool	26	13	8	5	44	20	47
Newcastle	25	12	9	4	43	26	45
Nottm F	26	13	6	7	39	28	45
Leeds	25	11	7	7	37	27	40
Tottenham	25	11	6	8	41	36	39
Sheff Wed	26	9	9	8	33	32	36
Wimbledon	25	10	5	10	31	40	35
Arsenal	27	8	10	9	30	29	34
Norwich	25	9	7	9	24	27	34
A Villa	26	7	10	9	32	35	31
Chelsea	25	8	7	10	32	35	31
Man City	25	8	7	10	33	39	31
Southampton	26	6	12	8	36	41	30
Everton	26	6	10	10	25	33	28
C Palace	26	6	9	11	19	26	27
QPR	25	7	6	12	35	48	27
Coventry	26	6	9	11	23	43	27
West Ham	25	7	4	14	22	32	25
Ipswich	25	5	5	15	26	49	20
Leicester	25	4	6	15	23	43	18

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(—) Bolton v Sheffield Utd
(—) Grimsby v Notts County
(—) Middlesbrough v Barnsley P
(—) Southend v Port Vale

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlsbro	27	14	7	6	41	25	49
Wolvrhmptn	27	14	5	8	49	34	47
Bolton	28	13	8	7	44	30	47
Tranmere	28	13	7	8	43	31	46
Reading	28	12	8	8	33	27	44
Sheff Utd	28	11	9	8	44	31	42
Barnsley	26	12	5	9	32	31	41
Derby	27	10	9	8	33	27	39
Grimsby	27	9	11	7	40	37	38
Oldham	28	10	8	10	38	38	38
Watford	27	9	11	7	28	28	38
Luton	27	10	7	10	36	34	37
Millwall	27	9	10	8	34	32	37
Stoke	26	9	8	9	28	31	35
Southend	27	10	5	12	28	46	35
West Brom	27	9	7	11	25	33	34
Charlton	27	8	9	10	41	45	33
Sundrland	27	6	13	8	27	27	31
Portsmth	28	7	9	12	28	41	30
Swindon	26	7	8	11	34	42	29
Port Vale	25	7	7	11	30	34	28
Burnley	25	6	9	10	27	36	27
Bristol City	28	7	6	15	22	37	27
Notts County	27	6	6	15	27	37	24

Second division
(2) Blackpool v Plymouth
(3) Bournemouth v Huddersfield
(4) Brentford v Cambridge Utd
(—) Bristol Rovers v Birmingham
(5) Cardiff v Bradford P
(—) Chester v Peterborough
(6) Crewe v Hull P
(7) Rotherham v Brighton
(8) Shrewsbury v Oxford Utd
(9) Stockport v Leyton Orient
(10) York v Wycombe P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	25	14	8	3	47	17	50
Brentford	26	15	3	8	48	24	48
Huddersfld	26	13	8	5	46	32	47
Oxford Utd	25	14	4	7	43	31	46
Crewe	26	14	4	8	52	45	46
Wycombe	24	13	6	5	35	27	45
Bristol R	23	11	9	3	41	21	42
Hull	27	12	6	9	43	38	42
Stockport	25	12	3	10	39	33	39
Bradford	26	11	6	9	35	36	39
Blackpool	28	12	5	11	41	44	38
York	25	11	5	9	36	25	38
Wrexham	23	10	7	6	42	32	37
Swansea	25	9	10	6	32	26	37
Rotherham	26	9	6	11	31	31	33
Peterboro	25	7	10	8	31	43	31
Cambs Utd	27	7	9	11	38	45	30
Brighton	25	7	9	9	26	33	30
Shrwsbury	25	7	5	13	31	34	26
Plymouth	24	6	5	13	23	48	23
Cardiff	27	5	6	16	27	42	21
Bournemth	27	4	7	16	25	52	19
L Orient	25	4	5	16	17	39	17
Chester	25	3	4	18	16	47	13

Third division
(—) Bury v Walsall P
(—) Carlisle v Fulham
(11) Chesterfield v Barnet P
(12) Colchester v Wigan
(13) Darlington v Gillingham P
(14) Exeter v Preston P
(15) Hartlepool v Scunthorpe
(16) Lincoln v Hereford
(17) Mansfield v Rochdale
(—) Northampton v Scarborough
(18) Torquay v Doncaster

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	26	19	6	1	49	16	63
Chestrfld	26	14	6	6	37	25	48
Walsall	23	12	7	4	42	24	43
Bury	22	12	6	4	32	16	42
Preston	27	12	5	10	35	28	41
Mansfield	26	12	4	10	52	39	40
Barnet	25	11	6	8	31	32	39
Scunthrpe	25	11	5	9	41	33	38
Doncaster	24	10	7	7	32	21	37
Torquay	25	10	7	8	38	34	37
Colchester	24	10	7	7	33	34	37
Fulham	25	8	10	7	30	30	34
Darlington	24	8	6	10	28	29	30
Rochdale	25	8	6	11	32	48	30
Lincoln	23	8	5	10	28	28	29
Wigan	24	6	6	12	38	40	24
Hartlpool	23	6	6	11	22	34	24
Exeter	23	6	5	12	18	37	23
Hereford	26	5	7	14	29	49	22
Northmptn	24	4	9	11	20	30	21
Gillingham	23	5	5	13	26	35	20
Scarboro	23	3	5	15	23	45	14

Vauxhall Conference
(19) Altrincham v Runcorn
(20) Dagenham and Red v Stalybridge
(21) Gateshead v Macclesfield
(22) Halifax v Telford
(23) Kettering v Farnborough
(24) Kidderminster v Southport
(25) Merthyr v Northwich P
(26) Stevenage v Stafford
(27) Welling v Bath
(28) Woking v Dover
(29) Yeovil v Bromsgrove

Beazer Homes League
Premier division
(30) Burton v Gloucester
(31) Cambridge City v Solihull
(32) Chelmsford v Crawley
(33) Cheltenham v Rushden and D
(34) Halesowen v Atherstone
(35) Hastings v Trowbridge
(36) Hednesford v Gresley
(37) Leek v Dorchester
(38) Sittingbourne v Corby
(39) Sudbury v Gravesend and N
(—) VS Rugby v Worcester

Diadora League
Premier division
(40) Bishop's Stortford v Yeading
(41) Dulwich v Harrow
(42) Enfield v Molesey
(43) Hayes v Kingstonian
(44) Hitchin v Aylesbury
(45) St Albans v Marlow
(46) Slough v Chesham
(47) Sutton United v Hendon
(48) Walton and Hersham v Grays
(—) Wokingham v Carshalton

Tennents Scottish Cup
Third round
(49) Aberdeen v Stranraer
(50) Celtic v St Mirren
(51) Clydebank v Hearts P
(—) Cove v Dunfermline
(—) Dundee Utd v Clyde
(52) East Fife v Ross County
(53) Falkirk v Motherwell
(54) Hamilton v Rangers
(—) Huntly v Burntisld S
(—) Kilmarnock v Greenock Morton
(55) Meadowbank v Berwick
(—) Montrose v Hibernian
(56) Raith v Ayr
(57) St Johnstone v Stenhousemuir P
(58) Stirling v Airdrie

Bell's Scottish League
Third division
(—) Alloa v East Stirling
(—) Arbroath v Forfar

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Baldock v Fareham; Burnham v Havant; Bury Town v Witney; Erith and Belvedere v Bashley; Newport IoW v Fisher 93; Salisbury v Clevedon; Wealdstone v Braintree; Weston-super-Mare v Ashford; Weymouth v Tonbridge AFC; Yate v Margate. Midland division: Bedworth v Newport AFC; Dudley Town v Sutton Coldfield; Evesham v Stourbridge; Forest Green v Buckingham Town; Grantham v Hinckley Town; Ilkeston v Tamworth; Leicester United v Bridgnorth; Moor Green v Armitage; Nuneaton v King's Lynn; Redditch v RC Warwick; Rothwell v Bilston.

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Abingdon Town v Billericay; Aldershot Town v Maidenhead; Chertsey v Boreham Wood; Dorking v Barking; Heybridge Swifts v Leyton; Ruislip Manor v Uxbridge; Staines v Basingstoke; Wembley v Bognor Regis; Whyteleafe v Tooting and Mitcham; Wivenhoe v Berkhamsted; Worthing v Newbury. Second division: Aveley v Egham; Bracknell v Edgware; Hungerford v Banstead; Leatherhead v Hemel Hempstead; Oxford City v Metropolitan Police; Saffron Walden v Malden Vale; Tilbury v Chalfont St Peter; Ware v Barton; Windsor and Eton v Croydon; Witham v Hampton. Third division: Clapton v Flackwell Heath; Collier Row v Southall; East Thurrock v Hornchurch; Epsom and Ewell v Bedford Town; Feltham and Hounslow v Hertford; Harlow v Camberley; Kingsbury v Horsham; Leighton v Canvey Island; Northwood v Lewes; Tring v Cove.

UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Marine; Bishop Auckland v Gainsborough; Buxton v Barrow; Colwyn Bay v Boston; Emley v Droylsden; Frickley v Morecambe; Guiseley v Chorley; Hyde v Horwich; Matlock v Knowsley; Witton v Whitley Bay. Postponed: Winsford v Spennymoor. First division: Alfreton v Netherfield; Atherton LR v Ashton United; Bamber Bridge v Worksop; Blyth Spartans v Radcliffe; Congleton v Fleetwood; Curzon Ashton v Gretna; Farsley Celtic v Caernarfon; Goole v Great Harwood; Lancaster v Eastwood Town; Mossley v Harrogate Town; Warrington v Workington.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws v Cwmbran; Holywell v Newtown; Llansantffraid v Flint Town; Maesteg Park v Aberystwyth; Rhyl v Connah's Quay; Ton Pentre v Llanelli. Postponed: Barry v Afan Lido; Mold v Bangor City.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon v Ford; Bowers v Sawbridgeworth; Burnham Ramblers v Eton Manor; Maldon v Brentwood; Romford v Gt Wakering; Stansted v Concord.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Hillingdon; Brimsdown v Waltham Abbey; Cockfosters v Corinthian-Casuals; Croydon v Amersham; Haringey v Hanwell; St Margaretsbury v Brook House; Tower Hamlets v Willesden; Walthamstow Pennant v Beaconsfield Sycob.

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Viking Sports; DCA Basingstoke v Horley; Farnham v Bedfont; Hartley Wintney v Chipstead; Merstham v Westfield; Cobham A v Ashford; Cranleigh v Peppard. Vase: Second round: Netherne v Godalming and Guildford.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Dunstable Old Boys v Wingate and Finchley; Hoddesdon v Milton Keynes; Langford v Hatfield; Letchworth Garden City v Harpenden; Potters Bar v Biggleswade. O'Brien Butchers Trophy: Third round: Shillington v Brache Sparta; Arlesey v Royston; Tottenhoe v Welwyn Garden City.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Frome v Taunton; Bristol Manor Farm v Barnstaple; Bridport v Odd Down; Calne v Mangotsfield; Chippenham v Torrington; Crediton v Westbury; Paulton v Elmore. Les Phillips Cup: Dawlish Town v Backwell Utd.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard v Chatteris; Diss v Soham; Great Yarmouth v Haverhill; Hadleigh v Fakenham; Harwich and Parkeston v Sudbury; March v Watton; Stowmarket v Histon; Tiptree v Lowestoft. Cup: Quarter-finals: Felixstowe Town v Ely City; Newmarket v Woodbridge Town; Wisbech Town v Downham Town; Wroxham v Halstead Town.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Totton v Ryde Sports; Andover v Aerostructures; Bemerton Heath v Horndean; Bournemouth v Fleet, Brockenhurst v Petersfield; Downton v Swanage and Herston, East Cowes v Christchurch; Eastleigh v Gosport. Thatcham v BAT.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Portfield, Newhaven v Crowborough; Peacehaven/Telscombe v Three Bridges; Ringmer v Shoreham; Southwick v Hailsham; Whitehawk v East Grinstead; Wick v Stamco.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Chatham; Darenth Heathside v Herne Bay; Faversham v Kent Police; Greenwich v Dartford; Slade Green v Crockenhill; Thamesmead v Canterbury. First division Cup: Third round: Corinthian v Folkestone Invicta; Tunbridge Wells v Deal.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon v Almondsbury; Bicester v Cirencester; Cinderford v North Leigh; Fairford v Shortwood; Kintbury v Tuffley; Pegasus Juniors v Carterton; Swindon Supermarine v Brackley.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Cogenhoe; Kempston v Stotfold; Long Buckby v Eynesbury; Mirrlees Blackstone v Stamford; Northampton Spencer v Holbeach, Raunds v Newport Pagnell, Spalding v Bourne, S and L Corby v Desborough, Wellingborough v Potton. Second round: Over Sports v West Wratting, Debden v Newmarket Res; Godmanchester v Cherry Hinton, Foxton v Somersham Res.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmere St Michaels v Knypersley Vic; Bolehall Swifts v Oldbury; Brierley Hill v Pershall Olympic; Hinckley Athletic v Paget; Pershore v Shepshed; Rocester v Stratford; Sandwell v Chasetown, Shifnal v Halesowen; Stapenhill v West Midlands Police; Willenhall v Barwell.

SKOL MIDLAND FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells v Coleshill, Bloxwich v Sherwood Celtic. Knowle v Handrahan Timbers; Mar KA v Upton; Olton Royale v Kings Heath; West Midland Fire Service v Alvechurch Villa. Cup: Second round: Badsey v Hams Hall.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Ossett Albion; Belper Town v Arnold; Glasshoughton Wel. v Hallam; Hucknall v Ashfield; Liversedge v Ossett Town; Maltby MW v Stocksbridge P S. North Ferriby v Denaby; Pontefract Col. v Pickering; Sheffield v Lincoln United. Thackley v Brigg.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Kidsgrove; Bradford Park Avenue v Bacup, Eastwood Hanley v Darwen; Glossop North End v Blackpool Rovers; Nantwich v Holker Old Boys; Newcastle Town v St Helens; Penrith v Salford; Rossendale v Burscough. Skelmersdale v Clitheroe.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Guisborough; Billingham v Dunston FB; Durham v Hebburn; Eppleton CW v Seaham Red Star; Murton v Chester le Street; Northallerton v Peterlee. Prudhoe v Tow Law; West Auckland v Ferryhill. Whitby v RTM Newcastle.

FA VASE: Fourth round replay: Eastwood v Stocksbridge.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Crystal Palace.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Portadown; Ballymena v Glenavon; Bangor v Larne; Cliftonville v Carrick; Coleraine v Newry; Distillery v Crusaders; Glentoran v Ballyclare; Linfield v Omagh.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Galway v Waterford (7.0). Sligo v St Patrick's Ath (7.30). Postponed: St James Gate v Fanad.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Southend, Chelsea v Gillingham; Millwall v Fulham, Queens Park Rangers v Leyton Orient, Watford v Ipswich. West Ham v Norwich. Second division: Bournemouth v Wimbledon. Brighton v Southampton; Crystal Palace v Bristol Rovers, Luton v Reading, Swindon v Bristol City; Tottenham v Colchester. Wycombe v Oxford Utd.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldenhamians v Wellingburians; Etonians v Malvernians, Reptonians v Lancing. First division: Cholmeleians v Salopians, Westminsters v Haileyburians; Wiltesians v Harrovians, Wykehamists v Bradfieldians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: O Danes v O Wilsonians; O Aloysians v O Tenisonians, Clapham v Chertsey. Senior first division: O Wokingians v O Tiffinians; O Salvatorians v O Suttonians, Latymer v Phoenix, Shene v O Kingsburians. Senior second division: O Vaughanians v O Southallians, O Ignatians R v O Camdenians, Mill Hill Cty v J Fisher; O Tollingtonians v O Minchendenians. Senior third division: O Greenfordians v O Grocers; O Vaughanians v O Hamptonians R, Glyn R v O Salvatorians; Chorleywood v Leyton. Senior Cup: Cardinal Manning v Glyn; O Manorians v Enfield.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Actonians v West Wickham, Midland Bank v Norsemen, Alexandra Pk v Broomfield, Old Bromleians v Lensbury, Old Westminster Citizens v Old Stationers; Old Parkonians v Kew Assn, Merton v Old Lyonians; Barclays Bank v Alleyn OB; Reigate Priory v Brentham; Southgate Olympic v Bank of England; Ibis v Old Salesians.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Mill Hill Village v Parkfield; Old Grammarians v Ulysses; Wandsworth Boro v Nottsborough; Witan v Southgate County. Senior two: Duncombe Sports v Old Parkonians; Ealing Association v Albanian; Old Finchleians v Hadley; Corinthian-Casuals v Hale End; Old Baelonians v UCL Academicals. Senior three: Brent v City of London; London Welsh v Birkbeck College; Old Colleians v Fulham Compton OB; Old Monovians v Pollygons; Old Woodhouseians v BBC. Senior four: Bourneside v Broadfields, Centymca v London Airways, Economicals v Hampstead Heathens. Inland Revenue v Pegasus; Old Simmarobians v Cardinal Pole.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Third round: Carshalton v Civil Service, Westerns v Crouch End Vampires, Cuaco v O Isleworthians; O Ignatians v O Esthameians, O Foresters v O Latymerians; East Barnet Old Grammarians v NatWest Bank; Wake Green v St Mary's College; O Chigwellians v South Bank Poly.

SCHOOLS MATCH: FA Snickers Under-19 Trophy: All Saints (Merseyside) v Winstanley Coll (Greater Manchester), Shrewsbury v Wolverhampton GS. FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Greater Manchester v Cheshire. Burton Clifford Shield: Semi-finals: Wolverhampton v South Birmingham; Solihull v Halesowen.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Regal Trophy final
Warrington v Wigan
(at Huddersfield, 3.0)

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Third round: Askam v Wigan St Pats A; Batley Victoria v Nags Head; Bisons v Fryston; Blackpool Stanley v Irlam Hornets, Brassmoulders v Beverley; Brighouse Rangers v Thatto Heath; Chequerfield v Kippax; Clayton v Mysons; Cleckheaton v Walney Central, Crown Malet v Broughton Red Rose; Dewsbury Norths v Lowca; Dewsbury Celtic v Leeds Social; Dewsbury Albion v Wath Brow Hornets, Dudley Hill v Westfield Hotel, Eastmoor v Eccles, Elland v Seaton, Ellenborough v Houghton; Embassy v Heworth, Farnworth v Egremont; Featherstone M W v Ship Inn; Folly Lane v Blackbrook; Glasson Rangers v East Leeds; Hensingham v Wigton, Heysham Atoms v Hare and Hounds, Hull Dockers v Wigan Tech; Kells v West Bowling; Knottingley Rockware v Greenland A R; Leigh Victoria v B R K; Leigh East v Frizington, Milford v Oldham St Annes; Millom v Ideal A B I; Morley Boro v West Bank, New Earswick A B v Shaw; Norland v West Hull. Norweel Co-Op L'Boro v Thornhill; Orrell St James v Crosfields; Ossett Trinity v Drypool Blacksmiths, Oulton v Dewsbury Moor; Ovenden v Skirlaugh, Park Amateurs v Stanningley; Pudsey v Prestwich, Queens v Westfield Welfare; Queensbury v Sowerby Bridge Robins; Rose Bridge v Fimby; Rossington v Middleton; Roundhill v Sowerby Spartans; Saddleworth v Northampton Knights, Sharlston Rvs v York Acorn; Shaw Cross v Featherstone Amateurs; Siddal v Normanton; Stanley Rangers v Birkenshaw, Upton and Frickley v Lock Lane; Walnut Warriors v Moldgreen; Waterhead v Woolston; Westgate Redoubt v Pilkingtons; Widnes St Maries v Barrow Island, Wigan St Judes A v Mayfield; Wigan St Judes v Crossgates, Wigan St Pats v South London. Worth Village v Hatton Simms Cross.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Pilkington Cup
Fifth round
Bristol v Leicester (2.15)
Exeter v Aspatria (3.0)
London Irish v Harlequins (3.0)
Lydney v Wakefield (3.0)
Northampton v Richmond (3.0)
Orrell v Bath (2.0)
Sale v Fylde (3.0)
Waterloo v Wasps (2.15)

CIS county championship
Quarter-final
Berkshire v Kent
(at Reading, 2.15)

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Sixth round: North: Bromyard v North Shields, Rushden and Higham v Buckingham, Wallasey v Queens, Wibsey v Huddersfield YMCA. South: Ilford Wanderers v Beaconsfield, Kingsbridge v Ventnor; St Albans v Whitstable, Tredworth v Wisbech

Swalec Cup
Fifth round
Builth Wells v Bonymaen
Dunvant v Tonyrefail
Ebbw Vale v Old Illtydians P
Glynneath v Llanelli
Morriston v Neath
Nelson v Newbridge
Penygraig v Rhyl
Pontypridd v Pontypool
Pyle v Cardiff
Seven Sisters v Blackwood
South Wales Police v O Penarthians
Swansea v Abercynon
Tenby Utd v Aberavon P
Tondu v Cardiff Inst
Whitland v Mountain Ash P
Ystrad Rhondda v Bridgend

Heineken League
Second division
Llanharan v Llandovery

THIRD DIVISION: Caerphilly v Tredegar.

McEwan's League
First division
Currie v West of Scotland
Edinburgh Acads v Stewart's Mel FP
Hawick v Gala
Jed-Forest v Dundee HSFP
Melrose v Heriot's FP
Stirling County v Glasgow H K
Watsonians v Boroughmuir

Second division
Biggar v Musselburgh
Edinburgh Wndrs v Haddington
Glasgow Acads v Kirkcaldy
Grangemouth v Gordonians
Preston Lodge v Peebles
Selkirk v Corstorphine
Wigtownshire v Kelso

Club matches
Barking v Ealing (2.15)
Basingstoke v Clifton
Bedford v Nottingham (3.0)
Berry Hill v Brixham
Blackheath v Cambridge University (2.0)
Broughton Park v Stoke
Camborne v Penryn
Coventry v Harrogate (3.0)
Cross Keys v Bedwas
Hereford v Leamington
High Wycombe v Guildford and Godalming
Hull Ionians v Morley
Leeds v West Hartlepool
Lichfield v Sutton Coldfield
Liverpool St Helens v Bradford and Bingley
London Welsh v Havant
Maesteg v Glamorgan Wndrs
Otley v Newcastle Gosforth
Penarth v Rumney
Plymouth v Nuneaton
Preston Grasshoppers v Widnes (2.15)
Rosslyn Park v Walsall (3.0)
Rugby v Treorchy (3.0)
Sheffield v Rotherham
Stourbridge v Burton
Sudbury v Norwich

Cancelled: Gloucester v Saracens. Newport v Moseley.

HOCKEY

Women's international
England v Russia
(Bisham Abbey, 2.30)

CLUB MATCHES: Blueharts v Balsam Leicester, Bracknell v Worthing (12.0), Bradford v Newcastle; Canterbury v Old Loughtonians; Doncaster v Sherwood; Hampton v Cheltenham, Hightown v Chester; Reading v Ealing (12.15); Slough v Clifton (3.0); Southampton v West Witney; Sunderland Bedans v Don Valley (12.30), Swansea v Cardiff Athletic (2.0); Trojans v St Albans, Woking v Redbridge (3.0).

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Firebrands v Guildford (Longwood, Failand 12.15); Southgate v Hull (Broomfield School, 2.0), Old Loughtonians v Havant (Chigwell, 1.0); Slough v Teddington (Wexham School, 1.45), Hounslow v East Grinstead (Chiswick Boathouse, 1.30)

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v Chichester; City Of Portsmouth v Woking, Dulwich v Spencer; Fareham v O Kingstonians, Lewes v Gore Court, Lyons v Wimbledon; Maidenhead v Staines, O Walcountians v High Wycombe; Oxford Hawks v Anchorians; Winchester v O Whitgiftians. Regionals: Hampshire/Surrey: Bournemouth v Purley, Camberley v Barnes, Cheam v Oxshott; Hamble OB v Pirelli, Lensbury v Weybridge Hawks. London University v O Mid Whitgiftians; Merton v Fleet, O Edwardians v Epsom; Oxted v Southampton Tautonians. Petersfield v Basingstoke. Kent/Sussex: Beckenham v Blackheath; Bexleyheath v Brighton; Bognor v Horsham, Greenwich v Herne Bay, Mid Sussex v Middleton, O Holcombeians v O Bordonians, O Williamsonians v Marden Russets, Sevenoaks v Belvedere, Tulse Hill v Crawley; Tunbridge Wells v Gravesend. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Gerrards Cross; Aylesbury v HCC, Bracknell v City of Oxford, Headington v Eastcote, OMT v Newbury, PHC Chiswick v Marlow; Ramgarhia v Milton Keynes; Richings Park v Mill Hill, Sunbury v Hayes, Wokingham v Hendon

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Blackburn, Formby v Stockton, Harrogate v Timperley; Southport v Norton; Warrington v Hightown-Northern

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Nottingham; Hampton in Arden v Harborne, Lichfield v Khalsa; Leicester Westleigh v Olton and West Warwickshire; North Notts v Bloxwich

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: Premier League: Cheltenham v West Gloс, Exeter University v Taunton Vale, Hereford v West Wilts, Plymouth v Bath Buccaneers, Weston-super-Mare v Swansea.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Blueharts v Chelmsford; Cambridge University v Bishop's Stortford; Colchester v Redbridge and Ilford; Dereham v Ipswich; Luton v Peterborough Town. Premier division B: Bury St Edmunds v Westcliff; Ipswich and East Suffolk v Bedford, Pelicans v Norwich City, Romford v Stevenage; Sudbury v Old Southendian

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Fife v Edinburgh. First division: Dumfries v Swindon; Lee Valley v Solihull. Slough v Medway; Telford v Chelmsford; Trafford v Guildford.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Great Britain v Russia (Birmingham); South of England cross country championships (Parliament Hill)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester v London (7.30); Manchester v Birmingham (7.30); Sheffield v Chester (8.0); Sunderland v Worthing (7.30); Thames Valley v Derby (8.0)

BOWLS: Denny Cup: Quarter-finals: Teignbridge v North Walsham (at Bromsgrove, 12.30); Preston v Blackpool Borough (Nottingham, 1.0); Rushden v Torbay (Whiteknights, 1.0); Stanley v Cyphers (Nottingham, 1.0)

LACROSSE: North of England League: First division: Poynton v Boardman Eccles A; Stockport v Old Waconians; Heaton Mersey v Sale, Cheadle v Mellor; Timperley v Ashton.

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh championship (Newport)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Cup
Fourth round
*Bristol City v Everton
*Sunderland v Tottenham
Tranmere v Wimbledon

Tennents Scottish Cup
Third round
Dundee v Partick (2.0)

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Avondale Utd v Fermoy (11.30); Belgrove v Ashtown Villa (2.30); Bluebell v CIE Ranch (2.30); College Corinthians v Bray (2.30); Derry v Finn Harps (6.30); Douglas Hall v Monaghan (2.30); Kilkenny v Dundalk (2.30); Longford v Drogheda (4.30); UCD v Cork (3.15).

OTHER MATCH: West Bromwich v IFK Gothenburg (Swe).

FA WOMEN'S CUP: Fifth round replay: Wigan v St Helens Garswood.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: League: Ilkeston v Millwall Lionesses; Leasowe Pacific v Red Star Southampton; Wolverhampton v Doncaster Belles; Wembley v Arsenal.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship
First division
Bradford N v Featherstone (3.0)
Castleford v St Helens (3.30)
Doncaster v Oldham (3.0)
Hull v Workington Town (3.15)
Wakefield Trinity v Halifax (3.30)

Second division
Bramley v Swinton (3.0)
Carlisle v Hunslet (2.0)
Dewsbury v Keighley (3.0)
Huddersfield v Leigh (3.30)
London Broncos v Highfield (3.0)
Rochdale v Hull K R (3.0)
Ryedale York v Barrow (3.15)
Whitehaven v Batley (2.0)

HOCKEY

Women's international
England v Russia
(Bisham Abbey, 9.30)

WELSH LEAGUE: Aberystwyth University v Cardiff Athletic; Colwyn Bay v Penarth; Haverfordwest v Llanfair; Newtown v Swansea, Wrexham v Newport

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University v Bluaharts; York v Sunderland Bedans.

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournville v Surbiton (Birmingham Univ, 2.30), Firebrands v Stourport (Longwood, Failand, 2.0); Guildford v Hull (Kings Manor School, 12.0); Indian Gymkhana v Old Loughtonians (Feltham School, 2.0); Reading v Havant (Sonning Lane, 2.0); Slough v East Grinstead (Wexham School, 2.0); Southgate v Cannock (Broomfield School, 2.0); Teddington v Hounslow (Teddington School, 1.30), Trojans v Canterbury (Stoneham Lane, 1.30). Second division: Barford Tigers v St Albans (Holyhead Leisure Centre, 1.0); Beeston v Whitchurch (Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0). Bromley v Doncaster (Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 1.0), Brooklands v Cambridge City (Georges Road, Sale, 1.45); Crostyx v Oxford Univ (Chigwell, 1.0); Hamstead and Westminster v Sheffield (Paddington Recreation Ground, 12.30); Harleston Magpies v Gloucester City (Shotford Heath, 2.0); Isca v Richmond (Exeter School, 12.30); Neston v Edgbaston (Raby Park, 2.0)

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Nottingham; Bracknell v Durham; Cardiff v Peterborough; Edinburgh v Milton Keynes; Sheffield v Fife; Whitley v Humberside. First division: Guildford v Slough; Lee Valley v Telford, Medway v Trafford, Paisley v Swindon, Solihull v Blackburn.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Leicester (6.0); Doncaster v Hemel (5.30).

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh championship (Newport).

VOLLEYBALL: Women: First division: Wessex v Britannia Music City (2.30), Ashcombe Guildford v Sale (2.30); Birmingham v KLEA Leeds (12.45)

صكنا من الاجل

Floods engulf stadium washing up dream final against Sampras

Agassi's tide rolls on as Krickstein reaches lowest ebb

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

AS SOON as the dream final had been arranged, the organisers of the Australian Open championships were yesterday plunged into a logistical nightmare. Five minutes after Andre Agassi had qualified to challenge Pete Sampras *tomorrow, their summit* meeting was thrown into doubt as the centre court at Flinders Park was converted into a swimming pool.

The notoriously changeable weather here provided far more drama than an insipid semi-final, staged under a closed roof and curtailed prematurely by an injury afflicting Aaron Krickstein. Already suffering from a pulled hamstring, he strained a groin muscle midway through the opening set. Although he continued, his movement was evidently hampered.

At 6-4, 6-4, 3-0 down and heading towards imminent defeat, the American, 27, signalled his retirement. One spectator had already done so. *Brad Gilbert, the coach to* Agassi, was alerted to the sight of a figure lying sprawled in the press seats, fast asleep. "He's got just cause," Gilbert pronounced.

Without a competitive edge, even Agassi admitted to losing concentration. He took 12 of 13 points to establish a 3-1 lead, but, uncharacteristically, made sufficient errors to be broken twice himself before capturing a first set in which, uncommonly, half of the games went against the service.

The second set, though following a more orderly pattern, was decided by another of Agassi's apparently deliberate accelerations. Seven successive points propelled him from 2-2 to 4-2, and, by then, the mismatch was being staged underneath the deafening noise of torrential rain battering on the roof like a thousand drums.

Moments after Krickstein had conceded, lightning struck, partially cutting the power inside the futuristic stadium. The main pump, *which is set in the bowels of* the complex and usually sends excess water into the nearby Yarra River, was temporarily incapacitated. As colossal pressure mounted, it exploded like a geyser.

Corridors were turned into streams, and the water, seeping initially into one corner of the court, soon rose to knee height. Play for the day was abandoned as Agassi, once he had found his way out of a darkened locker-room, contemplated the prospect of his first, and last, genuine test here.

Full results from Flinders Park .... Page 47

"First, I hope, the court is dry," he said. "You would think that with a roof over the stadium, you've got all the angles covered. I've never been at a tournament which has been flooded before, except perhaps Wimbledon, but Sunday is going to be fun. I'm looking forward to it."

So is everybody else. There are, as Agassi said, so many variables that the championship is unlikely to end in an anticlimax, as has often been the case in recent grand-slam events. The contrast between the two finalists could scarcely be greater.

Sampras, the top seed, against Agassi, the second. The leading exponent of the serve-and-volley game, if he so chooses, against the world's prime baseline player. The holder of the Australian and Wimbledon titles against the US Open champion, the introvert against the extrovert.

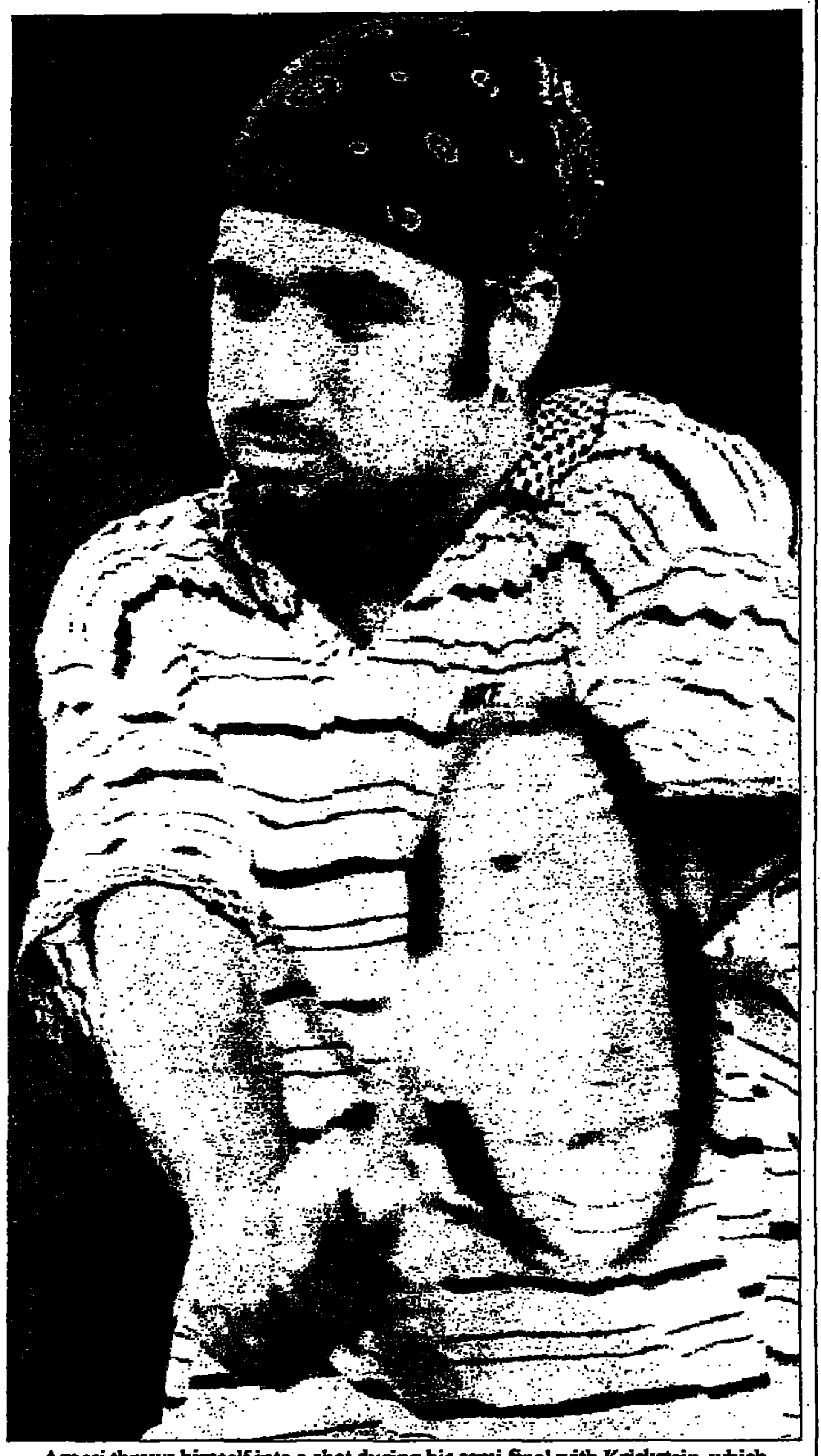
There is, though, yet another potentially crucial difference. Sampras has been engaged on court for almost 14½ *hours, has been involved* in 190 games and has been stretched to the far limit. Agassi has spent less than 8½ hours in action, has won 106 of 142 games and has endured no more than a series of practice sessions.

"*What you think is going to* happen isn't always relevant," Agassi said, "but the ingredients are all there." They have played each other a dozen times in the past. Sampras leads 7-5 and three of his defeats have been inflicted on his least favoured surface, clay.

Agassi has yet to drop a set or even to be taken to a tie-break and he is considered the favourite. To beat him, Sampras will have to shed yet more sweat, blood (he has been troubled by blisters on his right foot) and tears (for his ailing coach, Tim Gullikson). Whatever, after a damp squib, should come the fireworks.

☐ Steffi Graf has postponed her comeback from injury and will not compete at the women's tournament in Tokyo next week.

Graf, from Germany, who has not played since mid-November and is in danger of losing her ranking as world No 1 to Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the Australian Open finalist, is still suffering from a calf injury that her out of the championships in Melbourne. "I will only play when I am 100 per cent fit," Graf said yesterday. She sustained the *injury four weeks ago when* she had just recovered from a long-term back problem.



Agassi throws himself into a shot during his semi-final with Krickstein, which was curtailed by an injury to his opponent. Photograph: Darrin Braybrook

Age-old barriers no obstacle to Podkopayeva

David Powell talks to the Russian woman runner who, at 42, is refusing to slow down

Were the researchers in the United States wasting their time? Between 1990 and 1993, three separate studies into the effects of ageing on athletes *concluded that* physiological decline begins well into the forties, not at 35, as scientists had thought. Then along came Yekaterina Podkopayeva, whose successes at 42 provided evidence worth a thousand studies.

Podkopayeva was the world's No 1 ranked woman 1,500 metres runner of 1994 and one of only two to break four minutes. In head-to-heads over the season, she ended 3-2 up on Sonia O'Sullivan, 25, the Irish world silver-medal winner, and 2-1 up on Hassiba Boulmerka, 26, the Algerian Olympic champion.

Now the commercial world has realised its mistake. A kit sponsor, who thought that forty-somethings was not worth a contract, has signed her up, a deal arranged by Jos Hermens, the former ten-mile world record-holder and now a successful agent.

Hermens took Podkopayeva onto his books only last September. "She approached me four years ago and I rejected her because I thought she was too old," Hermens said. "I thought at 38 what could she do?"

Podkopayeva, the world and European *indoor* champion, is preparing for another year at the top and today she is due to appear for Russia in the McDonald's indoor match against Great Britain at Birmingham.

"Young runners often ask me when I am going to leave the sport and why I have been running so long," she said. "Sometimes I ask myself this question, but it is difficult for me to answer. I do it because it's possible."

Possible because she is highly motivated, her earnings from sport providing the family income for her husband and two children. According to Dr Owen Anderson, an American physiologist who publishes *Running Research News*, loss of determination has a greater influence on declining performance than age itself.

"We used to think that, at 35 or so, athletes began a steady physiological decline, but now we are finding that most of what we thought was an age-related decline is due to reduction in training," Anderson said. "We are finding that runners who are able to continue their training with intense workouts do not lose much between 25 and 45.

"At 45, your race times may be slower, but it is not the ageing process that has given you leaden legs. It is probably reduced motivation, a reduction in quality training, and lack of consistency of training."

Podkopayeva, who was a European Cup silver medal-winner in 1979, lives just outside Moscow and declines Russia's training camps because, she said, she would be bored. "At home, I must make dinner for my sons and help with their education," she said. However, Sergey, her husband, who is her coach, is the one up early to take the boys to school.

When she competed for the former *Soviet Union*, her *only* incentive was honour. Now, she receives a monthly income from the Army, bonuses from her national federation, and grand prix appearance-money.

Podkopayeva believes that what natural ability she has she inherited from her mother, who, living some distance from the nearest railway stop, would run through the forest to the station because she was afraid of the wolves. Being *caught by the pack has never* much appealed to her daughter, either.

Gatting builds on lucky breaks

JOHN WOODCOCK

At the Adelaide Test

I have long burnt a special candle for Mike Gatting. He has guts, aggression, pride and a rare talent, and he was born within a dozen miles of Lord's. Yesterday, in England's hour of need, he made 117, his tenth Test hundred and one of severe, sometimes overdone, self-denial.

He has had, until now, a chequered series: a dicey decision in the first innings of the *first* Test match, three corking deliveries from McDermott, and guilty, by his own admission, of a poor stroke which cost him his wicket to Warne in Melbourne. A few years ago, in prime form, he might, of course, have coped more *effectively with McDermott.*

Here in Adelaide his luck has changed. Though never in command, his experience and cunning and determination saw him through, as Gooch's did until he, too, fell victim to a bad decision. While on the subject of umpires, let me say that Srinivas Venkataraghavan, of India, has given an impression of sang-froid and competence that is all too rare, even in Test cricket, and not only in Australia. It so helps to have played the game, as Venkat did, and to know the tricks of the trade. If he is not sure, it is not out.

From some quarters, the reporting of Gatting's tour has so lacked compassion and understanding as to be hurtful. He was being written off as a bad selection and a fossil after the first couple of matches. As Len Hutton used to say, in that dry way he had, in Australia "the ball is hard, the wickets are hard, the people are hard and it's hard to beat them". *But, at 37, it is possible* still to be worth a Test place, especially if, like Gatting, one is the best player of spin in the side. The Australians were generous in their recognition of his often tortuous, always purposeful, effort yesterday, seeing in him the sort of fighter they admire. He had enjoyed some good breaks, but he was due them.

If England were to make any sort of a score, Atherton and *Gooch knew how much* depended on them, too. There may be some, though not too many, who believe that Atherton is not the right man to be captaining England. But nobody could dispute his right to be opening the England innings. Since going to the West Indies a year ago, he has played 26 innings in Test cricket at an average of 52.7. In a weak side and with the cares of leadership to contend with, not to mention the hubbub over the dust in his pocket last summer, that is an outstanding performance.

It is a fair criticism of English cricket to say that not enough stress is laid these days on the absolute, but never obsolete, value of soundness of method. The basis of Atherton's batting is that he plays straight, with his eye never off the ball. He sniffs the ball as the old pros used to urge of their charges. That he is not more free with his strokes comes, hardly surprisingly, from the fear of collapse should he get out.

Whether Gatting has the knack of imbuing his players with the unshakeable determination that is the basis of his own play, I am not sure. It is this which counts most of all at the highest level, and which has to be a top priority with the England selectors.

In 163.3 overs, the ball has yet to cross much the longest straight boundary on any Test ground. There have been several all-run fours, prompting the thought that Atherton will have to be careful today not to put Gooch, Gatting or Fraser at mid-on or mid-off. If he does, there could be an all-run seven or eight.

The two hits most talked about here are a hook for six by Ted Dexter, which cleared the main stand at square leg, where the dressing-rooms are, and an on drive for six by Gary Sobers, which carried some 140 yards and was made, what is more, with a bat weighing 2lb 2oz. I doubt whether there is a schoolboy in England who would not play better and more enjoyably for using a lighter bat than he does.

The longest hit, so far as we know, still stands to the credit of the Reverend W. Fellows — 175 yards from hit to pitch on the Christ Church ground at Oxford in 1856. The straight boundaries at Adelaide are each 110 yards.

Gatting acknowledges the applause of the crowd on reaching his century. Photograph: Kenny Rodger

Cork leads good day's work for England A

DOMINIC CORK spearheaded a fine England A performance on the opening day of the second cricket international in Calcutta yesterday. Cork ripped out the India A top order with a new-ball burst of three for 22, but an unbeaten 72 from Utpal Chatterjee hauled the India A total to 216, the final wicket falling just before the close.

Rajesh Chauhan helped Chatterjee add a frustrating 71 for the ninth wicket, and Paras Mhambrey also made a brave contribution against the second new ball. But England A, 1-0 up in the three-match series, were still well pleased *with their day's work*. Cork ending with three for 48 and Glen Chapple three for 37. Richard Stemp, the left-arm spinner, took two for 33.

Chatterjee's effort brought India back from the depths of 95 for seven, but Alan Wells, the captain of England A, said: "In a way, the fact that their tail-enders looked so comfortable is also good news for us. We have just got to get our heads down with the bat tomorrow. Both Cork and Chapple did us proud. Cork bowled with a lot of purpose in the first session while Chapple impresses me every time he bowls."

Scoreboard, page 47

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Stern test in prospect for Royal Stream

POINT-TO-POINT
BY BRIAN BEEL

ROYAL STREAM faces his sternest test to date at the West Percy point-to-point at Alnwick today.

He landed the maiden race at the corresponding meeting last year by 20 lengths in impressive style and subsequently won again on two occasions. An obvious contender for *The Times* Rising *Stars qualifier at Kelso in five* weeks' time, when he could meet Davy Blake with a weight concession of 17lb, Royal Stream has a formidable opponent today in Damnification.

In last year's Kelso qualifier, Damnification, now out of the series because of his age, ran Davy Blake to two lengths before going on to finish fifth in the four-mile National Hunt Chase at Cheltenham.

Also in the line-up will be Washakie, an absentee last season but the winner of a hunter chase at Newcastle in 1993.

The Alnwick fixture survived an inspection yesterday but the stewards are looking again at 6.30am. Not so lucky was the Hursley Hambledon at Badbury Rings where the course is waterlogged. A new date of February 25 is being applied for.

The third Sunday meeting takes place at Ampton tomorrow when the Suffolk has an eight-race card. The runner here most likely to make his mark in *The Times* series is Churchill Star.

Unbeaten last season in three starts before suffering a surprise defeat in his hunt race. Churchill Star goes particularly well in the mud. The open race should prove an excellent guide to his ability with the likes of Melton Park, Glen Oak and Equity Player all possible runners.

Two horses hoping to make a successful comeback in the confined race are Sneakapenny and Over The Edge. Sneakapenny went lame after the 1993 season, during which he won five races, and Over The Edge finished early after disappointing last year. The top Irish point-to-pointer of 1993 was found to have had a low blood count which is only just returning to normal.

TODAY'S MEETING: West Percy and Milvain, Alnwick, three miles east of town (12.30 first race). TOMORROW: Suffolk, Ampton, 4m N of Bury St Edmunds (12.00)

Weld seeks Festival hint

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE saga of tomorrow's AIG Europe Champion Hurdle takes another turn with a 10am inspection today. The rain that forced the switch from Leopardstown was not helping Fairyhouse either, but the course manager, Roy Craigie, said yesterday: "I'm more hopeful than pessimistic, but it all hinges on the weather. If the forecast of showers with drying conditions in between for the next 48 hours is correct, we should be all right."

Only Montelado is missing from last weekend's original line-up and his trainer, Pat Flynn, is likely to send his charge, off the track for almost two years, to Cheltenham for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle without a preparatory race. "If I could find an easy race in the middle of next month for him to have a pop round I might change my mind, but it's unlikely," Flynn said.

That leaves Flynn depending on his unbeaten novice, Aries Girl, to overcome Fortune And Fame. She is reported in excellent form and will love the heavy ground, but her jumping will have to improve if she is to beat the Dermot Weld-trained gelding, who will be making his first appearance since last April.

The reports coming from the Weld camp have been quietly encouraging for the past month and Fortune And Fame is as fit as he can be without the benefit of a recent race. If Fortune And Fame is to encourage his supporters for Cheltenham he should win tomorrow.

The Sue Bramall-trained Antonin, to be ridden by John Burke, has remained in Ireland since last week and shoulders top weight in the Pierse Leopardstown Chase. However, it will be a creditable performance if Antonin can take this against the likes of the Sun Alliance Chase prospect, Harcon, and the dour stayer, Another Excuse, who ran an encouraging race last time after a lay-off.

The Baileys Arkle Cup features a number of Cheltenham prospects and Klairon Davis, trained by Arthur Moore, can advertise his Festival prospects best of all against six talented rivals.

FAIRYHOUSE TOMORROW

GOING: HEAVY (10AM INSPECTION TODAY)

2.45 AIG EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE (Ir£34,000: 2m) (7 runners)

1	1/1131-	FORTUNE AND FAME 277 (CD,G,S) (M Smurfit) D Weld 6-11-10	M Dwyer
2	66300-5	SLANEY SPECIAL 25 (D,S) (Talbot Hotel Ltd) F Berry 6-11-10	C O'Dwyer
3	P0000-0	VALAMIR 25 (B) (L McDonnell) P Delaney 5-11-6	T Treacy
4	121111-	ARIES GIRL 33 (C,D,G,S) (W Stud) P J Flynn 6-11-5	K O'Brien
5	21153-P	MAGIC FEELING 17 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Ryan) A O'Brien 5-11-1	C Swan
6	42F12-0	TROPICAL LAKE 15 (D,G,S) (G Hoggard) M Hourigan 5-11-1	J Broderick
7	2-2	CLIFDON FOG 22 (BF) (J Hill) J Bolger 4-10-10	C Bowens

BETTING: 4-5 Fortune And Fame, 7-4 Aries Girl, 8-1 Tropical Lake, 10-1 Magic Feeling, 12-1 Clifdon Fog, 50-1 Slaney Special, 66-1 Valamir

1994: FORTUNE AND FAME A Maguire (11-10 fav) D Weld 7 ran

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
1.40 Ultra Beet. 2.10 Irie Mon. 2.40 Awesome Power. 3.15 Soldier's Leap. 3.45 Respectable Jones. 4.20 Carpathian.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Opera Fan. 3.15 Nordinex. 4.20 **NOTHING DOING** (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW TO MIDDLE NUMBERS BEST

1.40 LINDSAY CORREA BIRTHDAY CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,688: 5f) (7 runners)

1	-411	ULTRA BEET 7 (CD,G) P Haslam 9-0	J Stack (5) 5
2	4-16	BAILEYS SUNSET 7 (CD,F,G) M Johnston 8-9	T Williams 7
3	210-	SUPERLAO 66 (D,F,G) A Hennard 8-5	R Cochrane 4
4	05-4	FIERY FOOTSTEPS 7 (V) P Howling 7-13	D Wright (3) 3
5	000-	DERRY QUEEN 120 P Candell 7-11	A Mackay 2
6	050-	FOXHILL BLUE 77 (V) M Usher 7-9	C Adamson (7) 6
7	130-	MUSICAL FANTASY 33 (C,G) B Meehan 7-9	N Varley (5) 1

6-4 Ultra Beet, 5-2 Baileys Sunset, 4-1 Superlao, 8-1 Musical Fantasy, 10-1 Fiery Footsteps, 12-1 Foxhill Blue, 100-1 Derry Queen

2.10 CHIEFTAIN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,010: 1m) (6)

1		DEATH BY CHOCOLATE J Scargill 9-0	M Rimmer 6
2	05-2	IRIE MON 23 J Hills 9-0	R Cochrane 4
3	54-4	OPERA FAN 10 (BF) M Prescott 9-0	W Woods 2
4		SEMI SERIOUS W Jarvis 9-0	T Ives 5
5		WHACKFORD SQUEERS C Cyzer 9-0	A Clark 1
6	0-	EMERALD DREAM 183 C Elsey 8-9	D Harrison 3

2-1 Irie Mon, 9-4 Opera Fan, 5-1 Semi Serious, 6-1 Emerald Dream, 8-1 Death By Chocolate, 10-1 Whackford Squeers.

2.45 CHURCHILL CLAIMING STAKES (£3,067: 1m 2f) (8)

1	22-2	AWESOME POWER 25 (CD,BF,G) J Hills 9-9-4	A Clark 2
2	1032	GREEK GOLD 2 (D,G) G Kelly 6-8-12	Alex Greaves 7
3	00-0	MOGWAI 16 (G) M Meade 6-8-6	W Woods 1
4	0	LIFFEYSIDE LEADER 23 H Collingridge 4-8-4	C Hawksley (5) 8
5	200-	CLANCY'S EXPRESS 161 G Balding 4-8-3	S Drowne (5) 4
6	03-6	MEDLAND 15 (C,F,G) W G M Turner 5-8-3	D Harrison 5
7	/0-0	NIGHT FANTASY 2 N Waller 7-7-12	N Adams 6
8	0-46	THORNIWAMA 14 J Bridger 4-7-12	G Bardwell 3

5-4 Awesome Power, 7-2 Greek Gold, 5-1 Medland, 6-1 Thorniwama, 7-1 Mogwai, 16-1 Liffeyside Leader, 20-1 Night Fantasy, 50-1 Clancy's Express.

3.15 CHALLENGER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,556: 1m) (7)

1	24-1	NO PATTERN 11 (CD,G) G L Moore 9-7	L Suthern (7) 4
2	644-	NORDINEX 58 R Armstrong 8-11	W Woods 5
3	24-0	SOLDIER'S LEAP 18 (CD,G) C Brittain 8-10	R Cochrane 1
4	05-3	WITNEY-DE-BERGERAC 4 (G) J Moore 8-0	N Varley (5) 6
5	40-2	BOUNDARY EXPRESS 7 M Johnston 7-11	T Williams 3
6	0-13	WATER HAZARD 11 (C,G) S Dow 7-10	J Quinn 7
7	50-0	HAPPY BRAVE 10 P Cundell 7-7	D Wright (3) 2

9-4 Water Hazard, 11-4 No Pattern, 3-1 Boundary Express, 7-1 Nordinex, 10-1 Witney-De-Bergerac, 12-1 Soldier's Leap, 20-1 Happy Brave.

3.45 LINGFIELD PARK AWT SPRINT SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,095: 6f) (12)

1	506-	AFRICAN CHIMES 28 (CD,F,G) W O'Gorman 8-10-0	Emma O'Gorman (3) 6
2	010-	RED ADMIRAL 119 (D,F,G) P Haslam 5-9-11	Nicola Howarth (7) 8
3	11-0	FOUR OF SPADES 12 (B,CD,G) W Cunningham 4-9-10	A Clark 4
4	012-	NORDICO PRINCESS 28 (CD,G,S) G Oldroyd 4-9-9	R Cochrane 9
5	636-	GLOWING ACCOUNT 183 J Mulhall 4-9-7	Stephen Davies 10
6	113-	SPEEDY CLASSIC 42 (CD,F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 6-9-4	W Woods 12
7	41-5	DAANIERA 11 (B,CD,G,S) P Howling 5-9-4	D Wright (3) 3
8	606-	APOLLO RED 28 (C,D,G,S) A Moore 6-8-10	Candy Morris 7
9	45-2	RESPECTABLE JONES 16 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 9-8-7	R Gordon (7) 2
10	/00-	CRANFIELD CRACKER 369 D Arbuthnot 4-8-4	B Doyle 1
11	000-	MY LIFETIME LADY 131 (F,S) K Ivory 4-8-3	D Harrison 11
12	2-20	PAT POINDESTRES 11 (CD,BF,G) R O'Sullivan 5-7-8	J Quinn 5

4-1 Nordico Princess, 5-1 Speedy Classic, 11-2 Four Of Spades, 6-1 Red Admiral, 7-1 Respectable Jones, 8-1 Glowing Account, African Chimes, 10-1 others.

4.20 CENTURION HANDICAP (£3,024: 1m 4f) (8)

1	-535	MILNGAVIE 7 (C,D,F,G,S) M Johnston 5-10-0	R Cochrane 6
2	5-23	IN THE MONEY 11 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 6-9-12	T Ives 5
3	806-	SHELTERED COVE 80J (F) K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-3	A Clark 7
4	64-2	DANCING DIAMOND 18 (CD,BF,G) Miss B Sanders 5-8-11	S Sanders (5) 8
5	63-4	CARPATHIAN 16 Lord Huntingdon 4-8-9	D Harrison 1
6	20/4	NOTHING DOING 22 W Musson 6-8-5	P McCabe (5) 3
7	-012	ROYAL CIRCUS 7 (C,D,BF,F,G) J O'Shea 6-8-4	B Doyle 4
8	00-6	DOLLY DOLITTLE 26 H Collingridge 4-7-12	J Quinn 2

11-4 In The Money, 7-2 Nothing Doing, 4-1 Dancing Diamond, 9-2 Royal Circus, 5-1 Carpathian, 6-1 Milngavie, 33-1 Sheltered Cove, Dolly Dolittle.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Waller, 6 winners from 18 runners, 33.3%; W Jarvis, 7 from 25, 28.0%; Lord Huntingdon, 26 from 118, 22.0%; M Prescott, 17 from 80, 21.3%; W O'Gorman, 33 from 166, 19.9%.

JOCKEYS: L Suthern, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; Emma O'Gorman, 38 from 172, 22.1%; Alex Greaves, 10 from 58, 17.2%; R Cochrane, 22 from 139, 15.8%; B Doyle, 24 from 176, 13.6%.

Gold Cup market leaders clash in intriguing Cheltenham contest

Moment of truth for Master Oats

By Julian Muscat

NATIONAL Hunt horses are born survivors. They trawl the racetrack for seasons on end and their popularity rises with their age. Yet within that existence arrives the day when their merit is firmly established. That day has now dawned for Master Oats.

For this moment of truth, there could be no better setting than the Cotswold contours of Cheltenham racecourse. The mud will be deep; the air heavy with rain. But conditions could hardly be more favourable for Master Oats as he squares up to Barton Bank in the Pillar Property Investments Chase over an extended three miles. The race, to be run on the appropriate course, is just one furlong short of the full Gold Cup distance.

Master Oats disputes favouritism for that race with Barton Bank. He has reached these exalted heights by an unconventional route, eschewing the more traditional contests in favour of marathon journeys. A case in point was his victory in the Welsh National, run at Newbury last month over 3¾ miles.

Kim Bailey's strapping chaser was never more content than in its closing stages, when he bounded away from opponents so exhausted they could hardly raise a gallop. He summoned memories 11 years distant, when Burrough Hill Lad similarly decimated the staying chasers before his ultimate Gold Cup triumph. Today's race is pivotal towards Master Oats repeating that feat, as Bailey readily acknowledged.

"It wasn't the intention to run him here," he explained, "but so many people think he's a Gold Cup horse that we have to find out whether he's up to it. If he wins by ten lengths we'll have to prepare him for a return visit to Cheltenham.

"The Grand National will take second priority because the Gold Cup is the game's pinnacle. He's getting 6lb from Barton Bank and he'll adore the ground, so he'll have to win to justify his Gold Cup odds," the Upper Lambourn trainer added.

Although Bailey is unconcerned by the drop back to a shorter distance, Norman Williamson, who rides Master Oats, is more guarded.

Williamson has ridden the horse on eight of his last nine outings, which have yielded seven victories, one fall and one inexplicable defeat, sustained more than 12 months ago at Wincanton. He knows the horse's foibles like no one else.

"He hasn't gone a really good gallop in his races over extreme distances," the Irish jockey said. "He travelled well enough, but it will be a different story over three miles against better-class horses. It will be more like a two-mile gallop, and I must say I wasn't happy with my horse's jumping when he won at Chepstow last month. He didn't take too much notice of the fences."

Subsequent tutorials under the watchful eye of Yogi Breisner have largely eased Williamson's concerns. Given the fallibility of Barton Bank's jumping and Young Hustler's dislike of testing ground, Master Oats will never have a better opportunity to impress.

"In his favour is that he's a more mature horse this year," Williamson added. "I schooled him on Tuesday when he was in tremendous form. It's all a question of whether he has the class and speed."

The Cleeve Hurdle, run 35 minutes later, should shed more light on the somewhat obscure Champion Hurdle picture. Flakey Dove's prowess, already established, has hardly been evident after four outings this term, although she should strip fully fit for the first time today.

Her six opponents comprise an assortment of stayers and two-milers. Exactly which category best suits Atours remains unclear, although David Elsworth, his trainer, has long forwarded the seven-year-old as a live Champion Hurdle candidate. The fact that he has never won in the mud may also explain his shoddy hurdling on his last two outings. He will enjoy little respite from the conditions here.

ED BYRNE

Master Oats enjoyed a comfortable success over Earth Summit in the Welsh National at Newbury

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ROCKY PARK
(1.45 Cheltenham)
Next best: Strong Approach
(1.15 Ayr)

AYR

THUNDERER

12.45 Forbidden Time
1.15 Ceilidh Boy
1.45 Devilry
2.15 **NORTHERN SQUIRE** (nap)
2.50 Very Evident
3.25 The Lorryman
3.55 Ebullient Equiname

GOING: SOFT — SIS

12.45 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND FIELD & LAWN MARQUEES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,983: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

101 12 FORBIDDEN TIME 21 (S) (Mrs J Featherey) L Lungo 7-11-10 T Reed [illegible]
102 0P00- ABSOLUTELYMUSTARD 276 (Mrs M Roper) J Jefferson 6-11-0 A Thornton —
103 141 AFTER GRACE 33 (C,G,S) (N Mason) N Mason 5-11-0 J Supple (5) 93
104 00-0 BUYERS DREAM 31 (C Hill) J Hellens 5-11-0 A Lamach (3) —
105 00 CARLEY LAD 21 (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Richards 7-11-0 M Moloney —
106 PUP0 CLUSTOGUE JIM 15 (R Stirling) Denys Smith 6-11-0 J Callaghan —
107 CONTACT HELLENS (John Hellens Ltd) J Hellens 6-11-0 N Doughty —
108 0-0 KUSHDALAY 82 (R Green) C Parker 6-11-0 Mr D Parker (5) —
109 MISTER TRICK (E Birkbeck) L Lungo 5-11-0 F Perratt (5) —
110 NIKI DEE (G Dalgar) P Beaumont 5-11-0 R Supple —
111 354 POINT DUTY 12 (J Henderson) M Barnes 5-11-0 G Cahill (7) 79
112 21-222 SPARKY GAYLE 65 (G) (R Green) C Parker 5-11-0 B Storey 98
113 2-12 UNCLE KEENY 49 (BF,S) (R Seed) J J O'Neill 5-11-0 P Niven —
114 060-0 CRAIGIE RAMBLER 38 (D Robertson) D Robertson 6-10-9 F Leahy (5) —
115 4/P/PS- GILMANSCLEUCH 301 (Mrs P Gelid) J Oliver 7-10-9 J Burke (3) 77
116 0R0P06 MEADOWLECK 15 (W Young) W Young 6-10-9 R Murphy (7) 88
117 3 SMART IN SILK 162 (W Stevenson-Taylor) G Richards 6-10-9 A Dobbin —

BETTING: 11-4 Forbidden Time, 4-1 After Grace, 9-2 Sparky Gayle, 5-1 Uncle Keeny, 10-1 Point Duty, 12-1 Smart In Silk, 16-1 Carley Lad, 20-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

1.15 HARCROS HELPING YOU BUILD HANDICAP CHASE (£7,035: 3m 1f) (10 runners) BBC1

201 14-3546 ARMAGRET 68 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs R Wilkinson) B Wilkinson 10-12-0 D Byrne 96
202 1-40213 KUSHBALOO 31 (CD,F,G) (R Green) C Parker 10-11-4 B Storey 89
203 012-2P4 PERSIAN HOUSE 12 (F,G,S) (J Davenport) J Jefferson 8-11-4 R Supple 83
204 251361 EASTERN OASIS 33 (C,F,G,S) (J Andrews) J Andrews 12-10-10 R Murphy (7) 91
205 31U241 CEILIDH BOY 12 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 9-10-10 T Reed [illegible]
206 0-32122 STRONG APPROACH 15 (G,S) (Mrs R Carr) J Charlton 10-10-7 A Dobbin 92
207 /1/3PP0- DELGANY RUN 268 (G,S) (Mrs G Lodsay) Mrs D Thomson 11-10-6 S de Burgh (7) 80
208 3-22215 CELTIC SONG 40 (D,G,S) (Miss R Jeffreys) W Reed 8-10-1 Mr D Parker (5) 90
209 1-32U23 HUDSON BAY TRADER 12 (D,G,S) (P Curtis) P Beaumont 8-10-0 Mrs A Farrell 92
210 2-42114 BARNEY RUBBLE 12 (CD,G,S) (D Williams) D Williams 10-10-0 B Harding (5) 87

Long handicap: Hudson Bay Trader 9-11, Barney Rubble 9-9.

BETTING: 3-1 Ceilidh Boy, 9-2 Eastern Oasis, 11-2 Strong Approach, 7-1 Kushbaloo, 8-1 Armagret, Barney Rubble, Celtic Song, 14-1 Hudson Bay Trader, Persian House, 50-1 Delgany Run.

1994: TARTAN TYRANT 8-11-9 N Doughty (1-2 fav) G Richards 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARMAGRET 14½l 6th of 8 to Tartan Tradewinds in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, good). KUSHBALOO 3½l 3rd of 5 to Bluff Knoll in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, good) with CEILIDH BOY (4lb worse off) 10l 4th. PERSIAN HOUSE best effort this term 7l 2nd of 6 to Rouyan in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good). EASTERN OASIS beat Tartan Tradewinds 6l in 5-runner handicap chase here (3m 3f 110yd, soft). CEILIDH BOY beat Brackenfield 8l in 12-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, soft) with HUDSON BAY TRADER (10lb better off) 20l 3rd and PERSIAN HOUSE (8lb better off) 4l 4th. STRONG APPROACH ¾l 2nd of 14 to Boarding School in handicap chase at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good). CELTIC SONG beat No More Trix 4l in 9-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good) on penultimate start, with HUDSON BAY TRADER unseated rider last. HUDSON BAY TRADER 2½l 2nd of 7 to Toogood Too Be True in handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 1f, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: CEILIDH BOY

1.45 STANLEY LEISURE ORGANISATION HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,319: 2m) (10 runners) BBC1

301 33/4121- LINNGATE 408 (CD,G,S) (J Nelson) L Lungo 6-11-10 T Reed 88
302 11222-0 ARAGON AYR 12 (CD,S) (Kelso Lowflyers Club) P Monteith 7-11-9 B Harding (5) 93
303 32411-1 WEAVER GEORGE 33 (D,F,G) (Regent Decorators Ltd) J Hellens 5-11-5 A Dobbin [illegible]
304 16-1113 SAINT CIEL 28 (D,G,S) (Tara Racing) F Jordan 7-11-2 J Lodder 98
305 F0-5430 MASTER OF TROY 12 (CD,G,S) (C Fawcett) C Parker 7-11-0 Mr D Parker (5) 97
306 5106-26 DEVILRY 33 (CD,BF,S) (R Johnson) G Moore 5-10-11 J Callaghan 97
307 0-14023 REBEL KING 87 (G) (M Barnes) M Barnes 5-10-7 G Cahill (7) 92
308 0-PP000 CLURICAN 14 (D,S) (P Grundy) N Tinkler 6-10-6 E Husband (5) 95
309 010/3P0 FANTASTICAL 7 (D,G) (Mrs L Joughin) J J O'Neill 7-10-0 R McGrath (7) 89
310 F02060 STAGS FELL 12 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Cuthbert) T Cuthbert 10-10-0 Carol Cuthbert 98

Long handicap: Fantastical 9-8, Stags Fell 9-8.

BETTING: 5-2 Weaver George, 4-1 Devilry, Saint Ciel, 6-1 Aragon Ayr, 7-1 Linngate, 12-1 Rebel King, 14-1 Master Of Troy, 20-1 Fantastical, 33-1 Clurican, Stags Fell

1994: ARAGON AYR 6-11-5 A Dobbin (7-2) P Monteith 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

LINNGATE beat Chief Minister 2l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, soft). ARAGON AYR 3½l 2nd of 9 to Surrey Dancer in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) on penultimate start with MASTER OF TROY (8lb better off) 26½l 9th. WEAVER GEORGE beat Surrey Dancer ½l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good)

SAINT CIEL 6½l 3rd of 6 to Kingsfold Pet in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). DEVILRY ½l 2nd of 9 to Dual Image in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft) on penultimate start. REBEL KING 11½l 3rd of 9 to Addington Boy in novice handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good).
Selection: WEAVER GEORGE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Beaumont	3	7	42.9	A Roche	5	16	31.3
N Mason	5	15	33.3	N Doughty	32	127	25.2
Mrs M Reveley	33	110	30.0	J Supple	4	18	22.2
J J O'Neill	18	74	24.3	A Dobbin	16	85	18.8
G Richards	53	229	23.1	B Storey	21	167	12.6
G Moore	15	75	20.0	J Callaghan	9	75	12.0

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robeson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.15 MASON ORGANISATION NOVICES CHASE (£8,520: 3m 1f) (11 runners) BBC1

401 F4P212 NORTHERN SQUIRE 14 (G,S) (Mrs M Dixon) J Jefferson 7-11-13 R Supple 98
402 110-SF1 BRAVE BUCCANEER 12 (G,S) (S O'Shea) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-10 N Smith 78
403 64-0264 BELLS HILL LAD 12 (S) (Mrs K Collins) J Barclay 8-11-5 A Thornton —
404 5P251/5 BENGHAZI 12 (S) (A Thomson) A Thomson 11-11-5 N Doughty 76
405 55-3232 KILCOLGAN 12 (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-11-5 B Storey 77
406 2P-12F1 NINFA 12 (D,G,S) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 7-11-5 A Dobbin [illegible]
407 334000- PREOBLAKENSKY 255 (G,S) (N Mason) N Mason 8-11-5 J Callaghan 77
408 P6 RIVER BEE 6 (J Walby) W Reed 6-11-5 Mr D Parker —
409 00-0U33 SHEELIN LAD 12 (Reman Wall Racing) L Lungo 7-11-5 T Reed 92
410 33232/4 URON V 12 (F,S) (G Faber, P Ambler) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-5 G Lee 92
411 00/F2P NUN ON THE RUN 12 (Mrs D Coltman) J Oliver 9-11-0 M Moloney 65

BETTING: 9-4 Northern Squire, 4-1 Ninfa, 9-2 Brave Buccaneer, 5-1 Uron V, 8-1 Sheelin Lad, 10-1 Kilcolgan, 20-1 others.

1994: KILLULA CHIEF 7-11-5 M Dwyer (5-4 jt-fav) J O'Shea 3 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORTHERN SQUIRE 15l 2nd of 12 to Morceli in the grade II Dipper Novice Chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). BRAVE BUCCANEER beat KILCOLGAN (5lb better off) 6l in 14-runner novice chase at Carlisle (3m, soft) with BENGHAZI (5lb better off) 6½l 5th; RIVER BEE pulled up before 11th. NINFA beat Beauchamp Grace 3½l in 14-runner novice chase at Carlisle (3m, soft) with SHEELIN LAD 1l 3rd and URON V neck 4th, NUN ON THE RUN tailed off when pulled up before 4 out. NUN ON THE RUN 14l 2nd of 10 to Pennine Pride in novice chase at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start; NORTHERN SQUIRE carried out by loose horse after 8th, SHEELIN LAD unseated rider 6th.
Selection: NINFA

2.50 GALLOWAY GAZETTE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,379: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

501 5/60532- GROG 276F (P Mee) P Blockley 6-11-12 P Midgley 89
502 055130 VERY EVIDENT 28 (CD,S) (Mrs S Moore) G Moore 6-11-7 N Stocks (5) 97
503 1314/P-0 KIRSTENBOSCH 8 (F,G) (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 8-11-7 F Perratt —
504 22-0060 ON GOLDEN POND 8 (G) (N Mason) N Mason 5-10-11 J Supple [illegible]
505 005404 BELIEVE IT 14 (Mrs J Waggott) N Waggott 6-10-11 D Bentley 93
506 424 EXPLORE MONDIAL 15 (G Wallace) T Dyer 4-10-9 D J Moffatt 92
507 9/5235 BRILLIANT DISGUISE 33 (Thornlerill Racing) P Monteith 6-10-8 G Cahill (5) 91
508 0000P0- THE PIPE FITTER 313 (G & P Barker Ltd) J J O'Neill 7-10-8 A Roche 80
509 400-844 NICHOLAS PLANT 33 (Mrs M Paterson) J Goldie 6-10-8 F Leahy 97
510 465336 LOVING OMEN 8 (S) (Mrs F Buchanan) Miss Z Green 8-10-7 A Lamach 97
511 00-4P3 CRUNCH TIME 39 (C Major) C Broad 6-10-6 P Maddock (5) 87
512 044/06F MOSSIE GOLD 15 (Mrs H Greenshields) C Parker 8-10-5 J Burke —
513 5-P0F00 MISS JEDD 14 (W Young) W Young 8-10-0 R Murphy (5) 90
514 0535D THE BLACK BISHOP 21 (B) (Mrs J Paulsen) L Lungo 7-10-0 I Jardine (7) —
515 FP0 NAWTINOOKEY 33 (G Mair) P Monteith 5-10-0 G Lee —
516 0P-6P0P LOMOND SPRINGS 12 (J Alexander) J Barclay 6-10-0 A Wallwork (7) —

Long handicap: Miss Jedd 9-13, The Black Bishop 9-8, Nawtinookey 9-6, Lomond Springs 9-4.

BETTING: 3-1 Explore Mondial, 7-2 Very Evident, 6-1 Brilliant Disguise, 7-1 The Black Bishop, 8-1 Believe It, 10-1 Crunch Time, 12-1 Nicholas Plant, 16-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.25 CARRICK COWIE TORRY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,144: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

601 01325U POLITICAL TOWER 8 (C,G,S) (G Nixon) M Barnes 8-12-0 G Cahill (7) 96
602 116-3U4 PRECIPICE RUN 12 (C,D,G,S) (Cumbrian Racing Club) G Richards 10-10-11 A Dobbin 96
603 123-582 KAMBALDA RAMBLER 12 (D,BF,S) (Mrs J Dudgeon) C Parker 11-10-10 B Storey 97
604 2P-3040 FAST CRUISE 12 (D,G,S) (C Patel) E Owen jun 10-10-2 A Thornton —
605 3P/6-00P BLACK SPUR 12 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Charlton 13-10-2 Mr D Parker (5) —
606 1PFP-00 DEADLINE 12 (B,D,G,S) (S Chadwick) S Chadwick 12-10-1 F Leahy (5) —
607 14-3341 THE LORRYMAN 12 (D,F,S) (J Huddleston) L Lungo 7-10-1 T Reed [illegible]
608 53-4P23 FUNNY OLD GAME 12 (CD,S) (D McCune) D McCune 8-10-0 K Johnson 94
609 32-4245 BULA NUDAY 14 (Colonel D Greig) J Oliver 10-10-0 F Perratt (5) 91
610 /5/PP-0P CORBY KNOWE 12 (L Grant) J Barclay 9-10-0 M Moloney —

Long handicap: Funny Old Game 9-11, Bula Nuday 9-9, Corby Knowe 7-4

BETTING: 9-4 The Lorryman, 11-4 Kambalda Rambler, 3-1 Political Tower, 5-1 Precipice Run, 12-1 Bula Nuday, 14-1 Funny Old Game, 25-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.55 N B MASON ENTERTAINMENTS NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,236: 2m) (17 runners)

1 CURFEW KING (Mrs A Russell) Mrs A Russell 5-11-10 M Herrington (7) —
2 GOOD PROFIT (W Young) W Young 6-11-10 R Murphy (7) —
3 PREMIER FIRST (Premier Trade Frames Ltd) J Hellens 6-11-10 D Bentley —
4 RUSTIC WARRIOR (Mrs M Tindale) J Hellens 5-11-10 A Lamach (3) —
5 SANTA CONCERTO (J Corr) L Lungo 6-11-10 F Perratt (5) —
6 TILLYBOY (R Wilde) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-10 G Lee (5) —
7 YORKSHIRE SQUIRE (E Robson) P Beaumont 6-11-10 Mrs A Farrell —
8 1 EBULLIENT EQUINAME 10 (S) (Mrs P Covey) D Eddy 4-11-5 F Leahy (5) —
9 FOREVER SILVER (D Wright) L Lungo 5-11-5 I Jardine (7) —
10 LADY BOUQUET (Mrs S Matthews) L Lungo 5-11-5 M Harris (7) —
11 MORE CHAMPAGNE (Tillyde Cork Poppers) Mrs D Thomson 5-11-5 S de Burgh (7) —
12 PEACHY BEACH (N Mason) N Mason 5-11-5 J Supple (5) —
13 0 THE HEN HOOSE 50 (T Dyer) T Dyer 5-11-5 D J Moffatt (5) —
14 DATO STAR (Mrs K Riley) J Jefferson 4-10-12 M Newton (7) —
15 GIVE BEST (A Collins) J J O'Neill 4-10-12 A Roche (3) —
16 MOMENT OF JUSTICE (G Martin) L Lungo 4-10-12 G Cahill (7) —
17 BAREFOOT LANDING (M MacKenzie) C Parker 4-10-7 Mr D Parker (5) —

BETTING: 6-4 Ebullient Equiname, 7-2 Tillyboy, 4-1 Dato Star, 10-1 Santa Concerto, 12-1 Give Best, 14-1 Lady Bouquet, 20-1 others.

1994: NAUGHTY FUTURE 5-11-5 A Roche (13-2) J J O'Neill 14 ran

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ayr: 2.50 The Black Bishop. 3.25 Black Spur. Cheltenham: 1.10 Chris's Glen, Pistol River. 4.05 Lumberjack. Lingfield Park: 1.40 Foxhill Blue.

Cheltenham passed fit after inspection

THE meeting at Cheltenham today will go ahead, barring substantial overnight rain.

The course passed an unofficial inspection yesterday afternoon and the clerk of the course, Philip Arkwright, said: "The forecast is for the rain we have had today to die out and give way to showers. Squally showers are predicted tomorrow but they are expected to be fast moving."

Cheltenham is one of three meetings to have survived the wintry weather. Ayr and the all-weather track at Lingfield Park are the others.

Further snowfall left officials with no option but to call off today's scheduled card at Doncaster but prospects are bright at Ayr, where the going is described as soft by the clerk of the course, Sam Morshead.

The meeting is scheduled to be televised on *Grandstand* and Morshead said: "We have had a reasonably dry week and there shouldn't be any problems."

Next week's meetings at Plumpton, Nottingham, Leicester and Windsor remain doubtful. Plumpton have called a 10am inspection today to see if Monday's meeting can take place, but prospects are bleak.

Strong Approach to make stamina tell

AYR — BBC1

1.15: Strong Approach has been running consistently this season and stayed on well behind Boarding School at Edinburgh a fortnight ago. That was over 2½ miles and today's extra distance should be perfect. Ceilidh Boy benefited from first-time blinkers at Carlisle recently. They may not prove so effective this time and all his best runs have been on tracks with an uphill finish. Kushbaloo probably needs better ground and is held by the selection while Armagret, well-in on the best of last year's form, has not raced for two months. Eastern Oasis, a recent winner here in the mud, is the danger.

1.45: Twice a winner over course and distance here last season, **Devilry** may offer some value having disappointed at Sedgefield more than a month ago. Previously a good second in the Haydock mud, this track should be more suitable and the five-year-old tends to run his best races after a break. Weaver George, the likely favourite, was well ridden by Tony Dobbin last time to dominate a slowly run race at Wetherby but is yet to win on genuinely soft ground.

2.15: **Uron V** finished behind Ninfa and Sheelin Lad at Carlisle 12 days ago but that was his first run for two seasons. Mary Reveley's nine-year-old looks sure to come on considerably for his chasing debut and can reverse the form. Northern Squire was a good second to the impressive Morceli at Newcastle earlier this month but is not certain to stay an extended three miles in testing ground.

CHELTENHAM
C4

2.55: **Master Oats** can beat Barton Bank. See above.

3.30: Atours has been let down by his jumping in his last two runs and any mistakes in this stamina-sapping ground could prove costly. The softer the going the better for **Hebridean** and although David Nicholson's Stayers' Hurdle contender would ideally prefer further he is not short of speed. A minor setback meant Flakey Dove was not fully fit when finishing second to Relkeel at Haydock seven days ago. Richard Price's Champion Hurdle winner should be much straighter today and has won over this distance. She is the main danger.

4.05: Southolt runs his best races at Cheltenham but invariably a jumping error costs him any chance of victory. In a race full of ifs and buts, **Sheer Ability** is a tentative choice. Unbeaten in all his completed starts last season, Charlie Mann's chaser may still have further improvement in him and goes well fresh and in this ground. Beachy Head can reverse Ascot form with Couldnt Be Better and looks the main threat.

4.40: Romancer arguably boasts the best form, having finished second and fourth to Silver Wedge on his last two runs, but there is almost certainly better to come form other lightly raced runners. **Clifton Beat** beat Amancio by less than two lengths at Nottingham in December and is now 4lb worse off with the runner-up, but Philip Hobbs's hurdler has won well at Newbury since then and looks potentially smart. The mud-loving Brave Tornado looks best of the remainder.

RICHARD EVANS

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

1.10 Sparkling Cone
1.45 Smith's Band
2.20 Pridwell
2.55 Master Oats
3.30 Hebridean
4.05 Katabatic
4.40 Brave Tornado

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.55 **MASTER OATS.**

GOING: HEAVY — SIS

1.10 RACEGOERS CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,826: 2m 1f) (24 runners)

1 2U43-4U SUPREME MASTER 42 (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 5-11-10 L Harvey 81
2 0-613 SENOR EL BETRUTTI 57 (S) (G Nock) C Brooks 6-11-9 G Bradley 90
3 2216 FOX SPARROW 33 (BF,S) (B Todd) N Tinkler 5-11-6 P Holley 82
4 335411 MORSTOCK 16 (G) (Mrs M Fairbairn) R Hodges 5-11-3 T Dascombe (7) 98
5 650-112 FOURTH IN LINE 33 (G,S) (Mrs E Jenkinson) J Edwards 7-11-3 N Williamson 93
6 61 STONEY VALLEY 17 (D,S) (R Ellis) J Jenkins 5-11-1 J Railton 90
7 32-22F ABSOLUTELY AVERAGE 21 (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 5-11-0 D Gallagher 90
8 613111 NIPPER REED 22 (S) (G Piper) R Simpson 5-11-0 K Dempsey (7) 94
9 0320 PISTOL RIVER 43 (V) (P Green) N Walker 5-10-13 B Powell 84
10 00-1 FIXTURESSECRETARY 22 (S) (F Marley) D Nicholson 6-10-13 A Maguire 89
11 21-1 CONQUERING LEADER 16 (G,S) (Mrs R Proctor) N Henderson 6-10-11 M A Fitzgerald 97
12 225146 EL GRANDO 17 (D,S) (M Brunton) K Cunningham-Brown 5-10-9 A P McCoy (3) 90
13 35/10-51 SPARKLING CONE 33 (D,S) (Mrs M Horton) M Pipe 6-10-9 J Lower 94
14 0-04201 STIR FRY 30 (D,S) (Superset Racing) P Hobbs 5-10-7 Peter Hobbs 92
15 023-042 FREDDIE MUCK 38 (BF) (Mrs C Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-6 T Jenks 89
16 040-3F2 NINE O THREE 51 (S) (Bideford Tool Ltd) N Ayliffe 6-10-6 G Tormey (5) 87
17 345-000 DEVIL'S CORNER 57 (H M Webb) H Webb 7-10-0 D Leahy (3) [illegible]
18 3/P1P WILL IT LAST 22 (D,S) (Mrs T Walshe) N Babbage 9-10-0 P McLoughlin (5) 77
19 3F0-U20 FORTINA'S SONG 50 (B) (Mrs M Griffiths) S Griffiths 8-10-0 Mr R Johnson (7) 84
20 02-4 SABEEL 29 (P Sbo) T George 5-10-0 Philip Hughes (7) 81
21 U00- HUBERT 411 (L Saltinger) L Grassick 5-10-0 Mr J Grassick —
22 0-00PD4 JASON'S BOY 16 (W Jones) J Bradley 5-10-0 R Farrant 84
23 45-6403 CHRIS'S GLEN 21 (V) (Tote End Racing Club) J Bradley 6-10-0 Guy Lewis (5) 68
24 PP0PPP- NORDIC FLIGHT 294 (Lyonshall Racing) R Eckley 7-10-0 V Slattery —

Long handicap: Devil's Corner 9-12, Will It Last 9-8, Fortina's Song 9-3, Sabeel 9-1, Hubert 9-1, Jason's Boy 8-12, Chris's Glen 8-7, Nordic Flight 7-6

BETTING: 6-1 Conquering Leader, 7-1 Fixturessecretary, 8-1 Senor El Betrutti, Fourth In Line, 10-1 Supreme Master, 12-1 Morstock, Sparkling Cone, 14-1 others

1994: RELKEEL 5-11-10 R Dunwoody (11-4) D Nicholson 7 ran

1.45 LOBB AND LONGLEY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£7,003: 2m 5f) (10 runners)

1 412311 MASTER BOSTON 14 (CD,G,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 7-11-10 D Gallagher 87
2 U32412 SMITH'S BAND 21 (D,G,S) (A Smith) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12 W Marston 90
3 55/223-2 MYHAMET 29 (BF,G,S) (Superset Racing) P Hobbs 8-10-10 Peter Hobbs —
4 134133 WINGS OF FREEDOM 14 (V,F,G) (Technical Services) J Jenkins 7-10-9 N Williamson 88
5 F-1F12U ROCKY PARK 26 (S) (Mrs T Geake) G Balding 9-10-4 A P McCoy (3) 91
6 26/0-P12 BENJAMIN LANCASTER 19 (D,G,S) (M Griffin) M Griffin 11-10-0 A Maguire [illegible]
7 21134-5 KANO WARRIOR 14 (F) (D Jones) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-0 T Jenks —
8 5203/3-2 PRIMITIVE SINGER 9 (F,S) (S Kitching) J Pickering 7-10-0 T Eley (3) 65
9 12/4F4-3 PLAYING TRUANT 18 (G) (David O Moon) D Gandolfo 7-10-0 M Dwyer 82
10 0PP-3 QUEEN'S AWARD 94 (Felix Rosenstiel's Widow & Son) R Champion 6-10-0 B Powell 62

Long handicap: Kano Warrior 9-11, Primitive Singer 9-10, Playing Truant 9-8, Queen's Award 8-11.

BETTING: 3-1 Master Boston, 4-1 Rocky Park, 5-1 Smith's Band, 6-1 Kano Warrior, 7-1 Myhamet, 8-1 Benjamin Lancaster, 10-1 Wings Of Freedom, 12-1 others

1994: MONSIEUR LE CURE 8-12-0 N Williamson (5-1) J Edwards 10 ran

2.20 CHELTENHAM HALL OF FAME HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,744: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

1 06110-2 PRIDWELL 14 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-12-0 J Lower 90
2 22-1214 AAL EL AAL 21 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Hake) P Hobbs 8-10-13 G Tormey (5) 97
3 22-2203 PRINCIPLE MUSIC 145 (G) (Mrs S Kavanagh) H Kavanagh 7-10-10 S Fox (5) —
4 40/0410 MUSICAL MONARCH 45 (BF,G,S) (S Wiltshire) O Sherwood 9-10-5 M Richards 91
5 232564 ZEALOUS KITTEN 14 (G,S) (M Ooman) R Price 7-10-0 A P McCoy (3) [illegible]
6 0202-32 FAMOUS DANCER 161 (S) (B Buckley) J Jenkins 7-10-0 D Gallagher 76

Long handicap: Zealous Kitten 9-13, Famous Dancer 8-13

BETTING: 6-4 Pridwell, 3-1 Aal El Aal, 4-1 Musical Monarch, 7-1 Principle Music, 12-1 others.

1994: DANCING PADDY 6-11-12 D O'Sullivan (15-2) K Cunningham-Brown 9 ran

2.55 PILLAR PROPERTY INVESTMENTS CHASE (£13,615: 3m 1f 110yd) (7 runners) C4

1 166-055 ARENICE 55 (G,S) (Mrs F Montauban) F Rohaut (Fr) 7-11-12 D Vincent 85
2 P/111-FU BARTON BANK 33 (C,BF,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 9-11-12 A Maguire 94
3 PU0U0-2 TOPSHAM BAY 91 (CD,F,G,S) (Sir Eric Parker) J Gifford 12-11-12 P Hide 68
4 386-154 YOUNG HUSTLER 33 (CD,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-12 T Jenks 85
5 4-43104 SIBTON ABBEY 15 (CD,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 10-11-10 Richard Guest 64
6 11F1-11 MASTER OATS 28 (G,S) (P Matthews) K Bailey 9-11-6 N Williamson [illegible]
7 13-1025 DUBACILLA 21 (CD,BF,G,S) (H Cole) D Nicholson 9-11-5 D Gallagher 85

BETTING: 6-4 Master Oats, 2-1 Barton Bank, 7-1 Dubacilla, 10-1 Young Hustler, Arenice, 16-1 others.

1994: DUBACILLA 8-10-12 D Gallagher (8-1) H Cole 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARENICE 11l 5th of 9 to Al Capone II in conditions chase at Auteuil (2m 6f, good to soft). BARTON BANK best effort last season beat Bradbury Star head in 10-runner grade I King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton (3m, good) with YOUNG HUSTLER 20l 4th. YOUNG HUSTLER about 6½l 4th of 9 to Algan in 9-runner grade I King George VI Chase at Kempton (3m, soft). BARTON BANK unseated rider last when holding clear lead. MASTER OATS completed double beat Earth Summit 20l in 8-runner grade III Coral Welsh National Handicap Chase at Newbury (3m 6f, heavy). DUBACILLA about 2½l 5th of 10 to Deep Bramble in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft)
Selection: MASTER OATS

3.30 CLEEVE HURDLE (Grade I: £25,120: 2m 5f 110yd) (7 runners) C4

1 2-11132 ATOURS 32 (C,F,G,S) (Oh So Rosie Partnership) D Elsworth 7-11-8 P Holley 93
2 01/2-211 HEBRIDEAN 42 (D,G,S) (P Deal) D Nicholson 8-11-8 A Maguire 90
3 1-34534 MEDITATOR 21 (C,D,G,S) (Miss J Doyle) Miss J Doyle 11-11-8 S Curran 74
4 1/3342-2 MOLE BOARD 75 (C,F,G,S) (W Stunt) J Old 13-11-8 T Grantham 93
5 03-5P61 MUDAHIM 7 (C,F,G,S) (K Bell) C Broad 9-11-8 N Williamson 80
6 05612-5 SWEET GLOW 7 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs M Fairbrother) M Pipe 8-11-8 J Lower 96
7 15-3252 FLAKEY DOVE 7 (CD,F,G,S) (J Price) R Price 9-11-3 M Dwyer [illegible]

BETTING: 6-4 Hebridean, 7-2 Atours, 4-1 Flakey Dove, 6-1 Mudahim, 10-1 Mole Board, 14-1 Sweet Glow, 50-1 Meditator

1994: FLAKEY DOVE 8-11-3 R Dunwoody (4-1) R Price 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

ATOURS neck 2nd of 6 to Absalom's Lady in grade 1 Bonusprint Christmas Hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft) with FLAKEY DOVE about 3½l 5th. HEBRIDEAN beat Dorans Pride 5l in 8-runner grade I Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot (3m 1f 110yd, good) with MEDITATOR about 21l 5th. MOLE BOARD 3½l 2nd of 3 to Vasiliev in Leicester conditions hurdle (2m, soft). Previously 8l 2nd of 9 to Danoli in grade I Martell Aintree Hurdle (2m 4f, heavy) with FLAKEY DOVE 25l 5th. MUDAHIM beat Her Honour 4l in 6-runner grade II Premier Long Distance Hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, heavy) with SWEET GLOW (7lb better off) tailed off 5th. FLAKEY DOVE 8l 2nd of 4 to Relkeel in grade II Champion Hurdle Trial at Haydock (2m, heavy).
Selection: HEBRIDEAN

4.05 STEVE SMITH ECCLES HANDICAP CHASE (£8,403: 2m 5f) (10 runners) C4

1 151-163 KATABATIC 21 (C,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 12-12-0 S McNeill 91
2 122/651 BEECH ROAD 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs T Geake) G Balding 13-10-8 A P McCoy (3) [illegible]
3 F4PF32 SOUTHOLT 14 (F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-10-8 Richard Guest 82
4 111111- SHEER ABILITY 311 (D,G,S) (M Devlin) C Mann 9-10-3 N Williamson 91
5 1064-42 LUMBERJACK 29 (V,D,G,S) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 11-10-0 D Gallagher 90
6 11F5-13 BEACHY HEAD 70 (D,BF,G,S) (M Tabor) J O'Neill 7-10-0 M Dwyer 94
7 10-1122 COULDNT BE BETTER 42 (D,BF,G,S) (R Whittle) C Brooks 8-10-0 G Bradley 92
8 1-5F225 INDIAN TONIC 28 (BF,G,S) (Mrs J Richards) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-0 C Maude 87
9 316/00-6 STRONG BEAU 14 (C,D,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 10-10-0 A Maguire —
10 51F31U WELL BRIEFED 14 (CD,F,S) (J Barr) R Buckler 8-10-0 B Powell 88

Long handicap: Lumberjack 9-13, Beachy Head 9-13, Couldnt Be Better 9-10, Indian Tonic 9-5, Strong Beau 9-4, Well Briefed 9-2

BETTING: 4-1 Beachy Head, 9-2 Couldnt Be Better, 5-1 Beech Road, 6-1 Katabatic, 7-1 Southolt, Sheer Ability, 12-1 Well Briefed, 14-1 Indian Tonic, Lumberjack, 33-1 Strong Beau

1994: WATERLOO BOY 11-12-0 R Dunwoody (9-1) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

KATABATIC beat Whispering Steel distance in 3-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft). BEECH ROAD beat Jumbeau 15l in 8-runner handicap chase over course and distance (2m 5f, good to soft) with STRONG BEAU (5lb worse off) 31l 6th; WELL BRIEFED (7lb worse off) unseated rider 10th. SOUTHOLT 2l 3rd of 11 to Dublin Flyer in grade III Tripleprint Gold Cup over course and distance (good to soft) with BEECH ROAD 8½l 5th and KATABATIC (8lb better off) 1l 6th. LUMBERJACK neck 2nd of 6 to Jailbreaker in Leicester handicap chase (2m 4f, good to soft). COULDNT BE BETTER 1l 2nd of 11 to Ramyletts in grade II handicap chase at Ascot (2m 3f, good) penultimate start with BEACHY HEAD (7lb better off) 5l 3rd.
Selection: BEECH ROAD (nap)

4.40 FINESSE FOUR YEARS OLD HURDLE (Grade II: £8,100: 2m 1f) (10 runners) C4

1 121 BRAVE TORNADO 26 (S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 11-4 A P McCoy [illegible]
2 11 CLIFTON BEAT 28 (S) (D O'Connor) P Hobbs 11-4 N Williamson 85
3 112130 KHATIR 21 (B,C,BF,F,G,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 11-4 J Lower 89
4 2 AMANCIO 42 (BF) (P Locke) G Harwood 11-0 M Perrett 87
5 0 BOWCLIFFE 14 (Million In Mind Partnership) J Gifford 11-0 P Hide —
6 NO FIDDLING 162F (M Batchelor) M Wilkinson 11-0 J F Titley —
7 13F24 ROMANCER 21 (D,F) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 11-0 T Jenks 96
8 RUSTAVI 90F (R Clements) R Curtis 11-0 D Morris —
9 410 ZAITOON 74 (G) (Cheltenham Racing Ltd) D Nicholson 11-0 A Maguire 70
10 81 WIZZY LIZZY 33 (D,S) (Wessex Fm Racing Club) D Elsworth 10-9 A McCabe —

BETTING: 11-4 Clifton Beat, 7-2 Brave Tornado, 4-1 Romancer, 6-1 Amancio, 8-1 Khatir, 10-1 Zaitoon, 14-1 Bowcliffe, Wizzy Lizzy, 16-1 others.

1994: PRIDWELL 11-0 R Dunwoody (3-1) M Pipe 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BRAVE TORNADO beat Melnik 2l in 8-runner juvenile hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, heavy). CLIFTON BEAT beat Ainsi Soit Il 7l in 10-runner juvenile hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). Previously beat AMANCIO (4lb better off) 1¾l in 15-runner juvenile hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). ROMANCER 22½l 4th of 5 to Silver Wedge in grade I Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft). Previously 2l 2nd of 11 to Silver Wedge in a juvenile hurdle over course and distance (good to soft) with KHATIR 7l 3rd. ZAITOON beat Jathib 4l in 11-runner juvenile hurdle at Warwick (2m, good) penultimate start.
Selection: BRAVE TORNADO

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
K Bailey	19	71	26.8	A P McCoy	4	10	40.0
N Tinkler	4	17	23.5	Richard Guest	7	38	18.4
D Nicholson	39	170	22.9	N Williamson	12	70	17.1
M Pipe	46	263	17.5	A Maguire	24	159	15.1
N Twiston-Davies	29	175	16.6	T Jenks	3	25	12.0

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: **Southwell** (AW, first race 2.00), *Plumpton* (1.45).
TUESDAY: **Lingfield Park** (AW, 1.40), Edinburgh (1.20), Nottingham (1.30).
WEDNESDAY: **Wolverhampton** (AW, 2.10), Leicester (1.50), Windsor (1.30).
THURSDAY: **Lingfield Park** (AW, 2.00), Sedgefield (1.40), Towcester (1.20).
FRIDAY: **Southwell** (AW, 2.10), Kelso (1.30), *Lingfield Park* (1.50).
SATURDAY: **Lingfield Park** (AW, 1.50), **Wolverhampton** (AW, 7.00), Chepstow (BBC, 1.00), Sandown Park (C4, 1.20), *Wetherby* (1.10).
Flat meetings in bold

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM WOLVERHAMPTON

Going: standard

12.50 (6f) 1, Panther (N Kennedy, 7-1); 2, Swinging Tich (6-1); 3, Shadow Jury (5-1). Matthew David 7-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Christian Flight. 1l, 1½l. J Hetherton. Tote: £7.50; £3.10, £2.80, £2.10. DF: £15.40. CSF: £51.67.

1.20 (1m 4f) 1, Gold Blade (Mrs L Pearce, 100-30 fav); 2, Borocay (7-2); 3, Mr Moriarty (4-1). 11 ran. NR: Tempering. Hd, 8l. J Pearce. Tote: £4.40; £2.20, £2.10, £1.10. DF: £8.40. Trio: £9.00. CSF: £14.72. Tricast: £42.86.

1.50 (6f) 1, Letsbeonestaboutit (Dean McKeown, 12-1); 2, Farndale (2-1); 3, Aljaz (7-4 fav). 11 ran. ¾l, 2l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £10.50; £2.60, £1.90, £1.10. DF: £16.30. CSF: £41.50.

2.20 (1m 100yd) 1, Almuhtaram (Dale Gibson, 6-4); 2, Wisdom (7-2); 3, Hard Try (5-4 fav). 6 ran. Nk, 2l. W Haigh. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.10. DF: £4.50. CSF: £7.10. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

2.50 (1m 100yd) 1, Buddy's Friend (Sarah Thompson, 7-2); 2, Spanish Stripper (12-1); 3, Eastleigh (4-1). Shuttlecock 9-4 fav. 9 ran. 1½l, ¾l. R Williams. Tote: £8.40; £1.80, £3.90, £1.10. DF: £88.90. Trio: £153.90. CSF: £44.52. Tricast: £169.47

3.20 (7f) 1, Gulf Shaadi (B Doyle, 5-1); 2, Our Tom (9-4 fav); 3, Portend (7-2). 5 ran. 1¾l, nk. C Brittain. Tote: £5.30; £2.20, £1.40. DF: £5.70. CSF: £15.40.

3.50 (7f) 1, Mazilla (W Woods, 2-1 fav); 2, Presto Boy (6-1); 3, Bretton Princess (10-1). 11 ran. 3l, 2½l. W Haggas. Tote: £3.60; £2.10, £3.80, £3.10. DF: £8.00. CSF: £14.68.

4.20 (1m 4f) 1, Comtec's Legend (Mrs L Pearce, 10-1); 2, Ozzie Jones (12-1); 3, Who's The Best (12-1). Don't Drop Bombs 4-5 fav. 10 ran. NR: Wadeda. 3l, 3½l. J Bottomley. Tote: £9.40; £1.20, £2.70, £5.50. DF: £22.10. Trio: £39.20. CSF: £120.42. Tricast: £1,354.58.

Jackpot: £12,020.40 (0.1 winning tickets). Pool of £15,237.24 carried forward to Ayr today).

Placepot: £73.60.

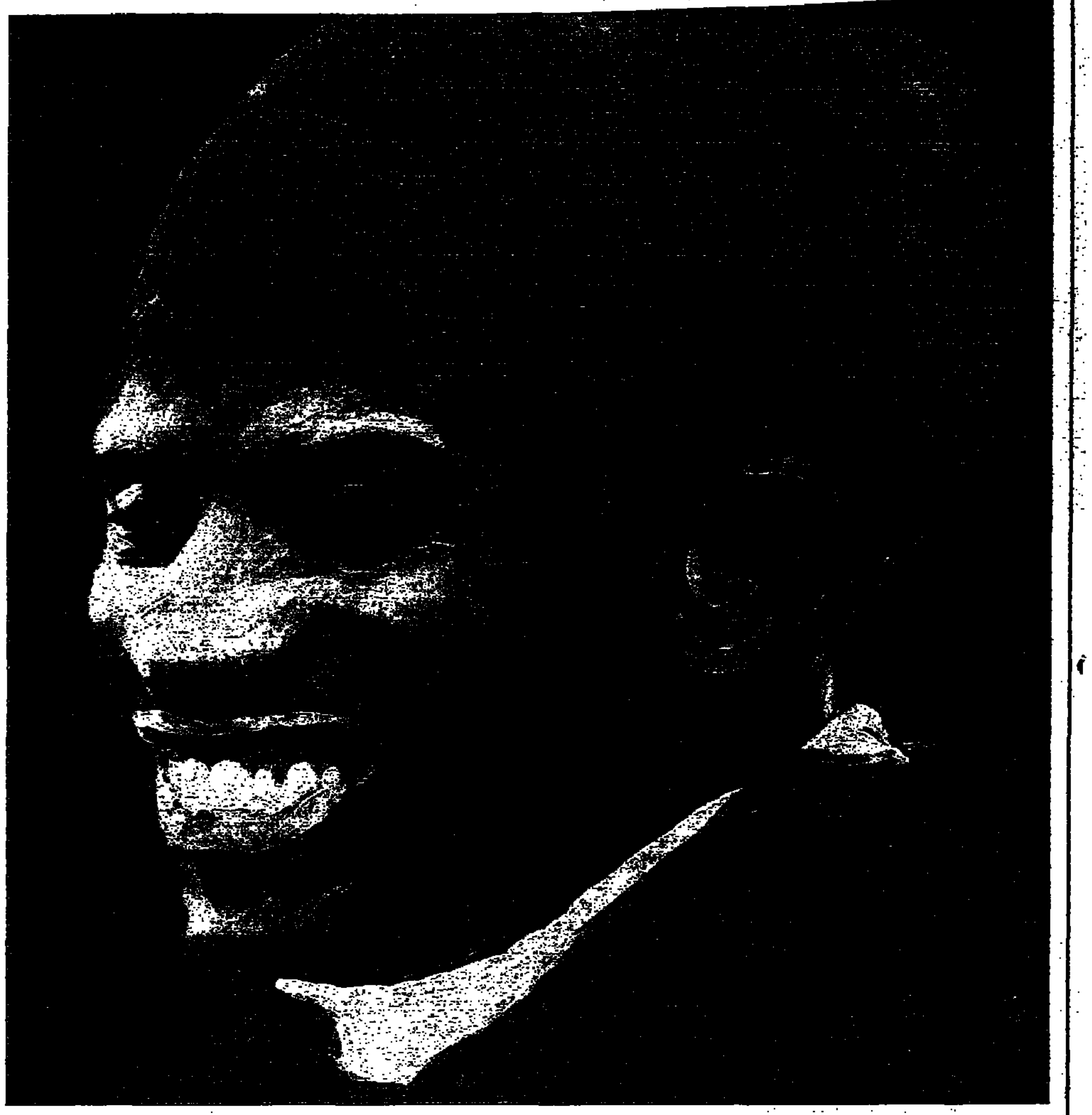
Quadpot: not won (pool of £25.00 carried forward to Ayr today).

صكتا من الاصل

Saturday portrait: Deion Sanders by Andrew Longmore

Dazzling all-rounder rewriting script of American prime time

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



Even by "Neon" Deion's standards, the entrance was spectacular. Purple suit, entourage, gold earrings glistening in the lights, speech at the ready. "This is my house. I built this house," he exhorted reporters at the press conference after the San Francisco 49ers had beaten the Atlanta Falcons, his former team, earlier this season. Another modest outburst from Deion Sanders, "Neon Deion", "Prime Time", the natural heir to the title of greatest athlete in America.

Provided he does not trip over his own ego in the meantime, cut himself with one of his rings or wrap his new black Lamborghini round a palm tree, Sanders will become the first man to play in a baseball World Series and a Super Bowl for American football when he plays corner back for the 49ers in Miami tomorrow night.

Imagine, for a moment, a louder, black, Ian Botham playing in the FA Cup Final two years after his Headingley Test and you will still not come close to defining the magnitude of that achievement nor to understanding the hype that swirls round Sanders's distinctive head like a dust-storm every day of the week. At the media day to introduce the teams in Super Bowl XXIX, great players like Jerry Rice were largely left alone as Sanders held court on the outfield, contented, relaxed, eloquent, witty, wealthy, the idol of the kids in the housing projects, the scourge of those who like their athletes quiet, dignified and, preferably, white.

Sanders is from the same Nike stable as Andre Agassi and Eric Cantona and he has the same ability to exploit, enrage and enchant. He is Gazza with brains, an unashamed product of modern American sport, of the television set that peddles so much mediocrity: the premium for real, unadulterated brilliance has risen way beyond the bounds of reason. The only price Sanders has had to pay is his freedom. Nobody, least of all Sanders, is quite sure which of his many characters he really is. "The most boring man in the world", as one of his Cincinnati team-mates called him, the quiet family man devoted to his wife and two children, or the outrageous Neon Deion? His roots do not narrow it down. Like millions of other children, Sanders was brought up by his mother, Connie Knight, who worked as a cleaning lady during the day and in the hospital at night to ensure that her son had a decent education and good clothes.

She would lay out Sanders's school clothes, put his breakfast ready, pin the front door key to his pocket and then call him from work at 7am to wake him up. On his way to school, Sanders would stop at a neighbour's house just to make sure he looked smart and tidy. He always did and he still does, now that his mother lives in Fort Myers, Florida, in a house with seven bedrooms and seven bathrooms and two garages with room for six cars. At the bottom of the swimming pool, the words "Prime Time" are spelt out in tiles. Prime Time is another of Sanders's aliases, the one that marks him out as smarter and richer than the dime-a-dozen sporting millionaire.

> 'In his early days, the number plate on Sanders's car was inscribed JUS GOT PAID'

With a little help from his sponsors, Sanders realised very early in his prodigious career that, in an age of sanitised sport, being different, being noticed, was the key to the kingdom, particularly as he played defensive back, not in the glamour positions of quarterback or running back in football, and was a good, but not spectacularly good, baseball player. "I'm going to be more than just a defensive back, because it's garbage what they pay defensive backs," Sanders recalled telling a team-mate at college. "I'm going to be more than that. So I manipulated the press and created something larger than just a football player." A football player, a baseball player and a loud-mouth.

Prime Time, a nickname he was given at Florida State University, became his trademark, the tag sewn inside every one of his 200 suits and onto the lips of every sporting American, the slogan that made Sanders's heretical claim this week that he did not need any exposure from the Super Bowl, that he was already "household", more than just an idle boast. Not that Prime Time is a complete phoney. Sanders is a natural show-off. Having missed all his final exams at college and signed a $4.4 million contract to play for the Falcons, he drove to his last game in a stretch limousine, wearing a tuxedo and top hat. Even when he is trying to be humble, he makes a mess of it. After the 49ers' recent defeat of the Dallas Cowboys in the NFC championship game, Sanders said he thought that game had been the Super Bowl. "But I don't want to take anything away from [pause] . . . whoever won that other damn game." The San Diego Chargers, as it turned out.

Not surprisingly, Sanders's antics have roused deep suspicion in both public and team-mates. "A lot of people aren't ready for me yet," he said. "They aren't ready for a young cocky black man who speaks his mind, drives flashy cars and didn't make his money from dealing drugs." Sanders betrayed his priorities this week when he spoke about his new love for fishing. "I can get away from all the things I have to think about," he said. "Money, family, my sport." In his early days, the number plate on Sanders's car read JUS GOT PAID.

But even in the land of the dollar, sport's values are deemed to be superior and when Sanders disappeared in a wave of publicity to play football for the Falcons when the Atlanta Braves were in the middle of a play-off series against Pittsburgh, returning to the Braves bench, courtesy of a plane sponsored by Nike with the whole escapade filmed by CBS, with a cup of coffee in his hand a quarter of an hour into the baseball game, even Sanders realised he had gone one step too far. Sanders's departure from Atlanta — he now plays baseball for the Cincinnati Reds — was not mourned. He had become too big even for the Olympic city.

The problem for Sanders's critics is that his talent and his style are indisputable. Sanders coyly admits he is "blessed" — at 6ft and just over 13st he can run a 40-yard sprint in 4.21sec with shoulder pads — and his career has been littered with head-shaking moments of brilliance. He scored on a punt return within five minutes of his professional football debut, returned an interception for a touchdown on his debut for the 49ers, scored on a 93-yard interception on his return to Atlanta, hit .533 (.300 is considered exceptional) in his first World Series and a home run in his first game as a starter in baseball. This season, Sanders has found a team bigger than himself and yet his 49ers team-mates have given him a lot of credit for bringing a sense of fun back to their game.

"I've been watching these guys kick behinds all these years and when I got here I found they didn't even enjoy it," he said. By instituting a rap refrain and giving dancing lessons, Sanders has made them enjoy it and helped the 49ers to their fifth Super Bowl. But there are signs that, at the age of 27, even Sanders is being blinded by his own flash. He talked of retiring from football earlier in the week, then said his mother wanted him to play one final season for the Miami Dolphins. It was interpreted as an invitation to open the bidding for his services next season. He has only himself to blame, but as the man himself says: "It ain't easy being Prime."

San Francisco superiority suggests one-sided Super Bowl contest

Chargers a case for desperate defence

From Andrew Longmore in Miami

WHEN a sports commentator on television in the United States said yesterday that there might have to be a change in defence, you could have assumed he was talking about Super Bowl XXIX. Not exactly. Such has been the blurring of values, so interchangeable the language, that the subject was actually the trial of O. J. Simpson.

Last night, another network had a viewers' poll: "Who's winning the trial?" The proceedings of courtroom 9-307 of the Los Angeles Criminal Courts and the build-up to the game between the San Diego Chargers and the San Francisco 49ers tomorrow night have been running along uncomfortably parallel lines all week. You have to remind yourself, as the murder trial of the former pro footballer leads the sports bulletins as well as the national news, that only one is a matter of real life and death, whatever Bill Shankly might have said.

But there is no doubt that the sense of perspective offered by Simpson's trial has been as much a cause of the low-key preparations to the Super Bowl as the well-voiced belief that the only issue to be settled in the Joe Robbie Stadium tomorrow is how good the 49ers are and how much they will win by. Both questions are probably more valid than any that the rag, tag and bobtail Chargers might pose the 49ers on the field.

The 49ers ooze class from every pore and, in Jerry Rice, Steve Young and Deion Sanders, they have three players who could hold their own in any all-time fantasy team. The Chargers' success has been built on sweat, nerve and collective will — blue-collar qualities that will surely not be enough on a glittering, black tie, occasion. Indeed, their progress to a first Super Bowl, via a last-minute field goal miss by Miami and a late interception against Pittsburgh, mirrors the adventures of Indiana Jones, the half-time feature film that many predict will be far more entertaining than the game itself.

Under Bobby Ross, their underrated coach, the Chargers have tricked defeat more times than Harrison Ford. But, this time, they seem in over their heads, hedged in by a limited number of attacking options and a lack of spontaneity. Only if they stick rigidly to a simple game plan, control the clock and somehow knock Young, the 49ers' quarterback, out of his rhythm will the Chargers have any chance of avoiding a repeat of the 38-15 drubbing by the 49ers in the regular season meeting. "We won't be able to play catch-up against these guys," Stan Humphries, the Chargers' quarterback, said. "We have to match them all game."

If there is any complacency in the 49ers' camp, it has been well hidden. George Seifert, their coach, is too old a hand to be caught with that sucker punch and, after being the bridesmaids to the Dallas Cowboys for the past two years, the team has invested too much effort to make a mess of their big day now.

SUSAN RAGAN

Rice, of San Francisco, limbers up for Super Bowl XXIX in Miami tomorrow

SUPER BOWL FACTS: The 49ers, champions of the National Football Conference, won 13 games and lost three during the regular season, the best record in the league. Then, in the play-offs, they beat the Chicago Bears 44-15 and the Dallas Cowboys 38-28. The Chargers, champions of the American Football Conference, won 11 and lost five regular-season games. They defeated the Miami Dolphins 22-21 and the Pittsburgh Steelers 17-13 to reach the Super Bowl.

Simpson trial, page 14

Regal setting as Wigan seek one more crown

By Christopher Irvine

AFTER a hundred years, rugby league finally has a ground fit for a showpiece. There is more chance of Wigan and Warrington letting the occasion down than the £16 million Alfred McAlpine Stadium, the snowy setting today for the Regal Trophy final.

The joint home of Huddersfield rugby league and Huddersfield Town football clubs, with its roof trusses like giant banana skins and 19,000-seat capacity, is a world away from the grim portrait of JB Priestley's Bruddersford, an amalgam of Huddersfield and Priestley's native Bradford.

"A grey-green tide of cloth caps swept me down streets that grew meaner at every turn, past canals and gas works, until finally we came to the edge of town," Priestley wrote. "When the last street brings you to a field, you are not aware of any dramatic contrast, simply because the field is not one of your pretty lush meadows, peeping and smiling, but is a dour slab of earth that keeps its grass as short as a wool merchant keeps his hair."

Priestley's essay on the "northern" game is full of images that rugby league likes to retain, just not in perpetuity. In the town that gave birth to the game, the Huddersfield stadium is an appropiate starting point for the next century. Home to a second-division club, albeit one with a record rivalled only by Wigan, the champions view such facilities with envy.

Talk about a move from Central Park remains just talk. Robin Park, across town, is an alternative, but so is making do and mend. Those Wigan supporters who voted recently to stay put might think differently after the Huddersfield experience. Tradition, in Wigan's case, comes at a price.

On the presumption that they win this afternoon — even with Warrington, unlike Wigan, at full available strength — how might the £36,000 cheque best be invested? Grant aid for a move is a possibility, for, with the premier league starting next season, the premier club must take a lead off the field as well as on it.

TEAMS

WARRINGTON: J Davies, M Forster, I Harris, A Bateman, R Myler, F Maloney, G Mackey, B McGuire, T Barlow, G Tees, P Darbyshire, P Cullen, K Shelford. Substitutes: A Bennett, G Sanderson.

WIGAN: H Paul, J Robinson, V Tuigamala, G Connolly, M Offiah, F Botica, S Edwards or C Murdock, K Skerrett, M Hall, N Cowie, D Betts, M Cassidy, P Clarke. Substitutes: P Atcheson, T O'Connor.

Referee: S Cummings (Widnes)

For only the second time, the final brings together the two most successful clubs in the competition's 24-year history. Wigan have won six times, Warrington four. Complacency, especially after Wigan's 33-2 defeat by Castleford in the final last year, is unlikely to assist the Warrington cause.

Hope, of course, springs eternal with Jonathan Davies, the Warrington master craftsman, at full back. Allan Bateman, his Welsh colleague, returns at centre.

A potent attacking back line gives fewer worries than the forwards' ability to withstand a notoriously robust Wigan pack, notwithstanding the absence of the injured Andrew Farrell.

Kelvin Skerrett, his three-match ban served, is restored to the Wigan front row. That was the reward reaped from a hard trip to Doncaster in midweek, although, as Warrington can testify after being humbled at Leeds last Sunday, playing twice in a week is hardly ideal preparation.

While Craig Murdock has proved an able deputy, the fitness test on a hamstring injury passed yesterday afternoon by Shaun Edwards came as a relief, and a blow to Warrington. Despite the either/or against the names of Edwards and Murdock at scrum half, Warrington know who to expect come 3pm. Snow permitting.

Loneliness decisive for the long distance runner

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

GIVING up. That is the secret of sport, is it not? That is the only conclusion that can be drawn from material gathered by this column in the course of the week. Let us start with giving up sex and, later, move on to the still more unusual sporting activity of giving up money.

John Williams, clearly believing that *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* is a training manual, has given up sex for the London Marathon. Regardless of the fact that most healthy chaps would happily run 26 miles and 385 yards in order to experience the delights of sexual dalliance, Williams has given it up so that he can do the running.

Williams was balloted out of the race this year. His response was to lobby and lobby the organisation with letters and pictures, including one of himself in front of a written message that says "No sex while in training for the marathon". Hard hearts were softened by this. Williams has also been making strenuous efforts to raise cash for the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

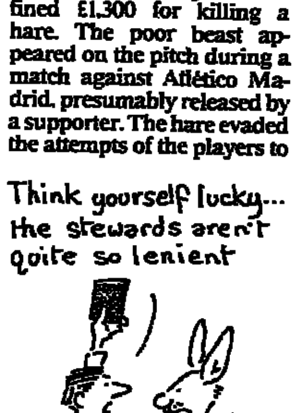
He runs an office-cleaning firm and lives in Bishop's Stortford with his girlfriend. No doubt she has given him every encouragement in his ambitions.

Mays days

At my school, the fives court was an important place. It gave an illusion of public school status to those who hankered for such a thing, and it provided for, in Kipling's words, "all right-minded boys . . . a place of retreat and meditation, where they smoked". Not for the May brothers, though. Gordon Stringer, a vice-president of the Eton Fives Association, writes with the claim that Peter and his brother, John, were perhaps the two greatest ever players of the game, winning together the Amateur championship in 1951, 1952 and 1953. The association is keen to find memorabilia of the May brothers' fives career; as ever, I will be happy to pass on any information.

Pitch invasion

Never mind the Eric Cantona business — anyway, it looked like an accident to me — I hear of an infinitely worse crime committed by Barcelona football club. They have just been fined £1,300 for killing a hare. The poor beast appeared on the pitch during a match against Atlético Madrid, presumably released by a supporter. The hare evaded the attempts of the players to tackle it, but it was eventually apprehended by a steward. Then the steward, in front of 90,000 supporters and a television audience of millions, dispatched the animal with what was described to me, in all seriousness, as "a rabbit punch". The Catalan regional government has imposed the fine under animal protection laws.



Going cheap

The United States is full of athletes who want more money. The ice hockey players have been on strike, the baseball players still are. But the San Francisco 49ers, overwhelming favourites for the Super Bowl tomorrow, are avidly taking *less*. Carman Policy, their president (did his father sell motor car insurance?), asked Jerry Rice, his brilliant wide receiver, to accept a cut in bonus payments of $175,000 (about £110,000), in order to squeeze the 49ers beneath the National Football League salary cap. Rice's response was less than outrage and three other players accepted a similar request. But their champion is the defensive star, "Neon" Deion Sanders, who turned down a contract worth $17 million to join the New Orleans Saints because he wanted to play in a Super Bowl. Sander's abnegation is the biggest Super Bowl bet of all time, as previously reported in this space, and it has come off. Sanders has a Super Bowl and the most mighty leverage in future contract negotiations.

The game is up

Darren Gough, the injured England cricketer (not a definition that narrows the field a whole lot), has confided his life's ambition to an Australian newspaper. "To have my own game show."

Bullfighter

The turbulent Scottie Pippen, of the Chicago Bulls, has set new standards in behaviour by throwing a chair across court in a basketball game. Ejected from the game, he eschewed the drop-kick on the spectator and went for distance. "I saw the chair fly through the air, and I thought 'uh-oh, that can't be a good thing'," a colleague said. Pippen was fined $6,000 and received a one match ban.

☐ *Finally, a Crystal Palace supporter rang up to ask if the crowd barriers of the Eighties can be replaced, to protect nice, sedate post-Taylor football fans from invasion by hooligans.*

[illegible]

Muted Roker roar carries echoes of past glories

1973: Bobby Kerr enjoys Sunderland's Cup success

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Weekend View

The fourth round of the FA Cup is not pregnant with the possibility of upsets. Wrexham may win at Old Trafford but such an outcome is as likely as Paul Ince accepting a referee's decision gracefully. The Irwell will dry up sooner.

Cup-watchers searching for a team to carry the colours of the lower orders through to the quarter-finals, and beyond, usually look towards a famous club that has fallen on fallow times. Tradition, which does not earn many points in the league, can count for something in the knock-out competitions.

At least that is what Portsmouth and Sunderland, at home respectively to Leicester City and Tottenham Hotspur, are hoping. Sunderland reached the final three years ago, when they were beaten 2-0 by Liverpool, who had defeated Portsmouth on penalties in a semi-final replay. Both clubs remain in the old second division, from whence many a game cup challenge has come.

The last second division club to win the FA Cup was West Ham United, 1-0 winners over Arsenal in 1980. Since then Queens Park Rangers, Brighton and Sunderland have been finalists. Rangers alone transferred their run into something more permanent in the way of sustained league form.

Portsmouth and Sunderland, first division clubs in recent seasons, now find themselves in penury. Both are up for sale. Both find themselves unable to move to new grounds. Both are "big clubs", preserved in aspic as other, more socially mobile clubs move ahead of them.

Sunderland's potential has always been exaggerated. A first division club for 68 unbroken years from 1890, they won the last of six championships 59 years ago. Now they are squeezed in every sense as Newcastle United and the newly fashionable Middlesbrough, managed by Bryan Robson, hog the back pages. Sunderland, the old "Bank of England" club, are coppering up.

As Newcastle have transformed St James' Park, and Middlesbrough have planned a new ground, Roker Park stands as a monument to the past. A liaison with Nissan to build a new one has not brought satisfaction and, given a year's grace by the Football Licensing Authority, Sunderland face an uncertain future in bringing Roker up to scratch.

The ground's capacity is 22,500. Next season, if they are to maintain even this modest level, they must install seats behind the goals and cover one end. It would cost £2 million to do that and for a club that lost £1½ million in the last trading year, that is an obligation it cannot afford.

Bob Murray, the majority shareholder, wants £2 million for his holding two years after the club was put on the market. Meanwhile, managers come and go. The latest is Mick Buxton, a common-or-garden sort who is not likely to steal too many headlines from the likes of Kevin Keegan and Robson.

Buxton has recently bought Steve Agnew from Leicester Cityand Martin Scott from Bristol City, not the sort of purchases to make the pulse race, but that is Sunderland's level these days. When Vic Halom, the centre forward in Sunderland's Cup-winning side of 1973, expressed the view that the present team was "tripe", Buxton threatened to ban from the ground two reporters who amplified his comments. Sadly, football is full of such pettiness.

Portsmouth's chances of beating Leicester today are greater than Sunderland's tomorrow. They appeared to be on the cusp of good things when Liverpool beat them three years ago at Villa Park, before John Beresford and Guy Whittingham left the club, and Jim Gregory put it up for sale.

Jim Smith has a safe pair of hands, but seems to have spent his entire managerial career at clubs either making do or on the mend. As Oldham Athletic discovered in their outstanding cup year of 1990, and Bolton Wanderers learnt last season when they knocked out Everton, Arsenal and Aston Villa, a few hours of glory can distract a team from its weekly commitments. Which is why Bolton, knocked out of the competition at Portsmouth this year in the third round, may be the happy ones this weekend.

Burnley prepare to settle score with Liverpool

By Russell Kempson

IN A disappointing FA Cup fourth-round programme, which is devoid of its usual abundance of "giant v minnow" confrontations, the visit of Wrexham to Manchester United stands out. The thirteenth club in the Endsleigh Insurance League versus the FA Carling Premiership champions. Though the enforced absence of Eric Cantona has cast a shadow over the fixture, it still raises the pulse in the full essence of the competition.

Burnley v Liverpool falls into a similar category, with the third-placed side in the Premiership travelling to the third-off-bottom in the Endsleigh League first division. Burnley have won only six league matches since their elevation from the second division, via the play-offs, last season and would appreciate a decent Cup run to take their minds off a probable relegation-avoiding campaign over the next few months.

League champions in 1921 and 1960, Burnley also won the Cup in 1914, when they beat Liverpool 1-0 in the final. However, the most recent meeting of the clubs, earlier this season, ended in overwhelming victory for Roy Evans and his reshaped, revitalised team, Liverpool completing a 6-1 aggregate success in the second round of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Yet Jimmy Mullen, the Burnley manager, reckons the memory will spur his players on to greater effort and achievement: "It is a different ball game this time," he said. "It's a one-off job and we'll be all out to upset the formbook. We were trailing 2-0 from the first leg at Anfield, which meant we were always chasing the game back here in the return leg. They turned us over 4-1, but it won't be so easy for them this time." Burnley will be without Marlon Beresford, their highly-rated goalkeeper, who is suspended, and Wayne Russell continues to deputise. He is likely to be busy, with Evans having impressed on Ian Rush and Robbie Fowler, his strikers, the need for better finishing.

Rush, 33, has scored 40 goals in 42 Cup-ties and requires only one more to equal the modern record of Denis Law, which was set during his careers with Huddersfield Town, Manchester City and Manchester United. Fowler, 19, has scored 40 goals in 66 matches for Liverpool, but the England B striker is still waiting for his first in the Cup.

Worryingly, they have registered only two goals between them in their last five games. "If we put teams on the rack, we have to finish them off," Evans said. "We have to show more patience and take our time, instead of forcing things, when we get an opening."

In the wake of losing Mark Hughes because of injury and Cantona through his antics at Selhurst Park, and subsequent suspension, Manchester United may give Philip Neville — the younger brother of Gary Neville, 19, the United defender — his first-team debut against Wrexham at Old Trafford. Neville Jr, captain of United's youth team, will fill in at right back, allowing Roy Keane to move into midfield and Brian McClair to partner Ryan Giggs up front.

Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, renews acquaintenace with Frank Burrows, the Swansea City manager, at St James' Park this afternoon, Keegan having cleaned the boots of Burrows when they played for Scunthorpe United. Keegan, an apprentice, would earn 2s 6d if the job was well done.

Andy Melville, the Sunderland centre back, meets an old adversary when Tottenham Hotspur visit Roker Park tomorrow, the Wales defender having marked Jürgen Klinsmann, the Tottenham and Germany striker, in a European championship qualifying tie at the National Stadium in Cardiff in 1991. He did a good job, too, Wales winning 1-0. "Jürgen has great pace and a good touch," Melville said. "You have to be on top form to live with him."

FORM GUIDE TO THE FOURTH ROUND

Fourth-round record over last ten years

	W	L
Aston Villa	3	4
Bristol City	3	0
Burnley	0	0
Chelsea	2	5
Coventry	1	3
Crystal Palace	1	1
Everton	7	1
Leeds	1	4
Leicester	1	1
Liverpool	7	0
Luton	3	4
Manchester City	3	3
Manchester Utd	8	2
Millwall	2	4
Newcastle	4	2
Norwich	3	5
Nottm Forest	5	1
Oldham	2	2
Portsmouth	3	1
QPR	3	1
Sheff Wed	5	4
Southampton	5	1
Sunderland	1	3
Swansea	0	2
Swindon	1	4
Tottenham	4	3
Tranmere	0	1
Watford	5	1
West Ham	7	2
Wimbledon	6	1
Wolverhampton	1	1
Wrexham	0	1

Premiership clubs
The best

	W	L
Manchester Utd	8	2
West Ham	7	2
Everton	7	1
Liverpool	7	0
Wimbledon	6	1
Sheffield Wed	5	4
Nottm Forest	5	1
Southampton	5	1

The worst

	W	L
Leeds	1	4
Coventry	1	3
Crystal Palace	1	1
Leicester	1	1
Chelsea	2	5

Endsleigh League clubs
The best

	W	L
Watford	5	1
Bristol City	3	0
Portsmouth	3	1
Luton	3	4
Millwall	2	4
Oldham	2	2

Underdogs

All but two of the Endsleigh Insurance League teams, Burnley and Swansea City, have beaten Premiership/first division teams in the past 10 years. Luton Town have the best record with eight victories, Watford have seven and Millwall six.

Records

The most familiar FA Cup opponents today are Burnley and Liverpool, who have met 10 times. Liverpool have won four, Burnley three and three ties have been drawn. Queens Park Rangers and West Ham United have met nine times and shared the honours — three wins apiece and three draws.

Millwall have never lost to Chelsea in the FA Cup. Of four ties, Millwall have won three and drawn one.

Tranmere Rovers and Wimbledon and Leeds United and Oldham Athletic meet for the first time in the FA Cup today.

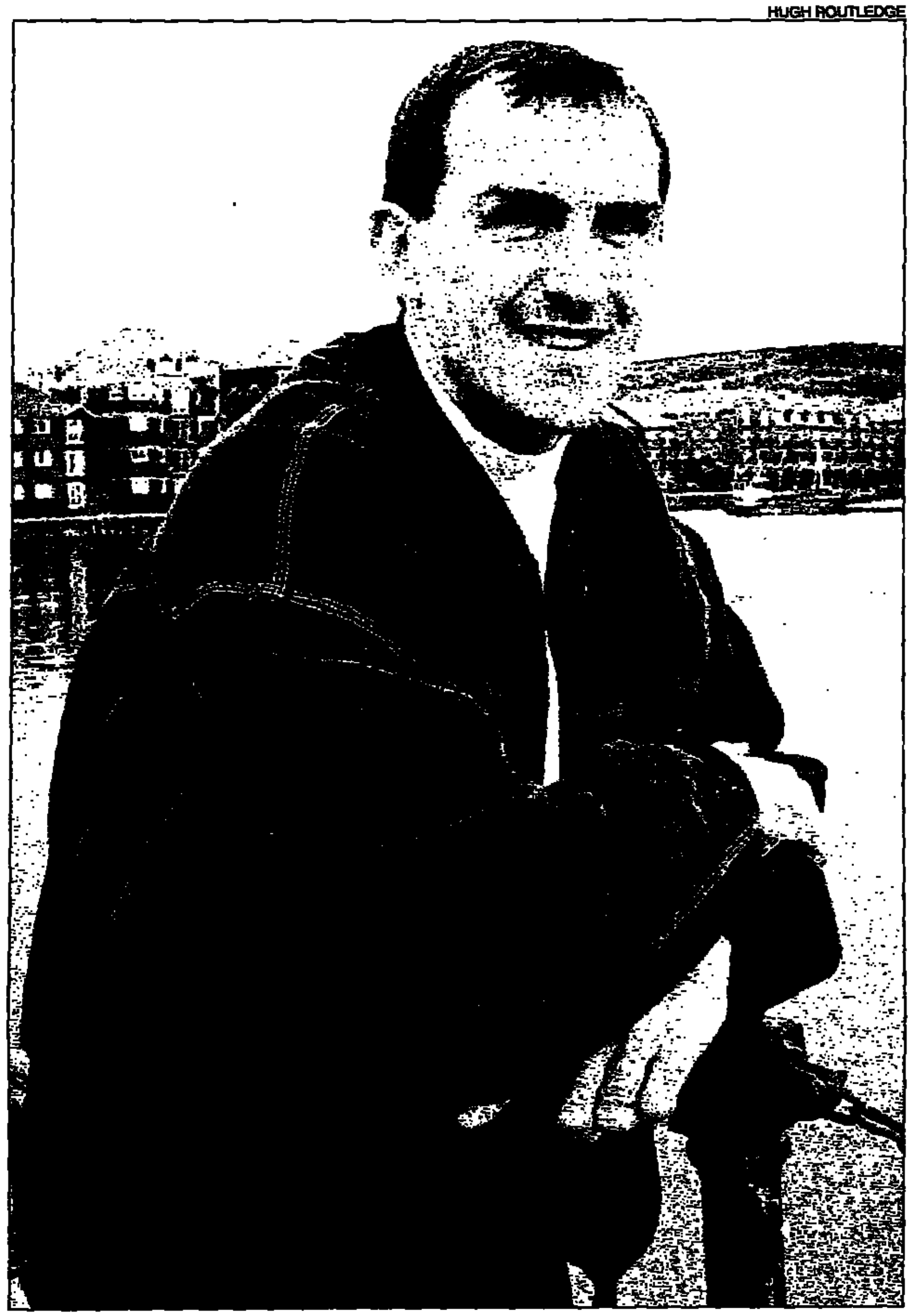
On previous form, Sheffield Wednesday (who have beaten Wolverhampton Wanderers six times in seven ties), Tottenham Hotspur (who have beaten Sunderland four times and drawn once in six ties) and Newcastle United (who have won thre and drawn on five ties with Swansea City) are the most favoured.

JULIAN DESBOROUGH

Hayes aims for lead role on his return to big stage

Russell Kempson on the career of aplayer seeking torediscover his former glory

HUGH ROUTLEDGE


Hayes reflects on success alongside the calm waters of Swansea marina

Martin Hayes, like Oliver Twist, wanted more. Not a second helping of cold, stodgy gruel, just a few extra pennies for a young player with growing self-esteem and a proven eye for goal. George Graham, like the evil Mr Bumble, the Beadle, would have none of it. More money? Don't even think about it, m'boy. Be off with you.

Hayes, the former Arsenal and Celtic midfield player, now with Swansea City, tells a cautionary tale of how football can massage the ego, promise riches beyond comprehension and then deal the cruellest of jokers. A tale of what was and what might have been, success and failure, building and rebuilding.

He tells it without a hint of remorse, self-pity, malice or bitterness. A frank, concise account of how burning ambition and the exuberance of youth can be exposed as no more than a disposable commodity in a fragile profession ruled by opinion.

Graham, the Arsenal manager, who nurtured Hayes from football cradle to first-division championship, rates special mention. Not in a slag off George, kick-a-man-when-he's-down fashion; it would be too easy to jump on the hate-Highbury bandwagon.

Hayes prefers criticism by recollection. A compilation of events, as he saw them then and still does; a matter-of-fact analysis of a complex father figure who, on the outside, exudes control and confidence, but who retains a sense of privacy, guarded jealously.

Today, Hayes revisits a time long since consigned to his scrapbook — an FA Cup fourth-round tie. Swansea, 14th in the Endsleigh Insurance League second division, take on Newcastle United, early-season leaders of the FA Carling Premiership. As the Swans strut their stuff at St James' Park, Graham will mull over the meaning of third-round defeat against Millwall.

He might consider, too, how he treats the young bloods, the lifeblood, of Highbury. Hayes, 28, suggests a more sensitive approach towards embryonic talent. "George has a way of manipulating the younger players," he said. "When you're young, you are intimidated by him. You're not confident of yourself and you don't know what to do.

"Everything George does is done professionally. There are a lot of pluses in the way he runs the club, but he is not a great listener."

Hayes, born in Walthamstow, east London, graduated from the Arsenal youth academy with honours. Successive Littlewoods Cup final appearances, including the 2-1 win over Liverpool in 1987, 19 goals in 35 League matches in the same season, the 1989 championship, three England Under-21 caps.

But at 24, and after eight years at the club, he felt he should be more suitably rewarded. "I was in the first team, but, financially, I had little to show for it," he said. "It's the big-money signings who get the big-money wages.

"I was either going to stay at Highbury for ten years and get a testimonial or do something about it. My career was stagnating." He went to see Graham — a fruitless encounter — and subsequently asked for a transfer. "There was never any argument, but George made it clear that I would go only when he said so. I heard that Queens Park Rangers were interested in me, but George doesn't like letting players go to other London clubs."

Eventually, Graham relented. Hayes moved to Celtic for £650,000 in May 1990, a chance to rejuvenate his enthusiasm, but the downward spiral had begun. He never fitted into Celtic's "cavalier" mode of play, having been used to the more regimented style at Highbury, and failed to impress either Billy McNeill or his successor, Liam Brady.

Hayes played only seven Scottish League games (without scoring) and a reserves' championship medal provided scant consolation. When he was offered a free transfer in January 1992, and then broke his right leg in the second-team Old Firm meeting at Ibrox three months later, life had descended into the pit.

Until Frank Burrows offered him a rescue package at Vetch Field, in January 1993, despair was setting in. Although a hernia injury kept him out of Swansea's Autoglass Trophy triumph over Huddersfield Town at Wembley last season, and his contract at the Vetch expires during the summer, he has settled in South Wales with his wife, Maria, and their children, Connor, five, and Rosanna, three next month.

He is playing again, regularly, and has no regrets. "It's going to be a big day at Newcastle," he said. "It's a chance for me to remind people I'm still alive." Yet he often thinks of Highbury, where, for a few dollars more, he might still be performing.

"It was the hardest thing in the world to leave," he said. "If they rang me tomorrow, I'd go back like a shot. It's the greatest club there is."

Price leads charge as big guns launch an assault

From John Hopkins
Golf Correspondent
in Manila

THE Johnnie Walker Classic here is no longer masquerading as a minor event in a dull week on the PGA European Tour. At last some of the world's best players, who have been imported to the Philippines no doubt at considerable cost to the sponsor, have sprung to life and, by playing the sort of golf of which they are capable, have taken their rightful places on the leaderboard after 36 holes.

Chief among these is Nick Price. Having been outscored in the first round by Mats Hallberg, an unknown Swede who had missed 21 cuts when he last played a full season in Europe, Price produced a round of golf that was more in keeping with his status as the world's No 1 player. He went round in 67 and is six under par, one stroke ahead of Fred Couples and Robert Karlsson.

Price, 37, is inching towards his best form, visibly improving with each round and clearly getting more confident. This was only his sixth competitive round of 1995 and he said it was his best yet. "I putted better today," he said.

If there were still a few ragged edges to Price's long game, there were no flies on his putting. He holed a 30-footer, a 20-footer, a 15-footer and a 12-footer, as well as two more from inside ten feet.

A light dousing of the rock-hard greens had taken place overnight and, all in all, the course that took so many prisoners and proved so fearsome on Thursday proved to be much more amenable yesterday. Twelve men broke par on the first day; 32 on the second.

The 65 scored by Karlsson is a record for The Orchard course and a reward for hard work put in during the winter in Orlando, Florida, where the Swede, who is Europe's tallest golfer, worked with Simon Holmes, his coach. "It was easier today," Karlsson admitted. "The secret around this course is to keep it straight off the tee."

Being so tall — 6ft 5in — Karlsson often has difficulty in hitting the ball straight. The latest example came in the first round of the Desert Classic last week when he hit only three fairways, went round in 79 and comfortably missed the cut.

It is time Karlsson stepped up a rung. Since the afternoon of the 1992 European Open, when he hunted Faldo, the eventual winner, to the last green in the final round, Karlsson has been promising, but that is all. His best performance in 1994 was a third place in the Moroccan Open.

Two other scores that put some credibility back on the leaderboard were Couples's 67 and Colin Montgomerie's 68. With big Darren Clarke, having taken 69, joining Montgomerie on three under par and Greg Norman, 70, biding his time on two under par, the big guns are massing just as they had done one week earlier in Dubai. It should be an interesting weekend.

SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS: 138: N Price (Zim) 71, 67. 139: F Couples (US) 72, 67, R Karlsson (Swe) 74, 65. 141: D Clarke 72, 69, C Montgomerie 73, 68, R Allenby (Aus) 71, 70. 142: M Hallberg (Swe) 69, 73; M Campbell (NZ) 74, 68, C Rocca (It) 73, 69; S Torrance 71, 71, G Norman (Aus) 72, 70; A Coltart 70, 72; M Davis 72, 70; I Aoki (Japan) 72, 70. 143: S Grappasonni (It) 70, 73, S McAllister 74, 69; P Eales 70, 73, P Senior (Aus) 71, 72. 144: S Struver (Ger) 73, 71; R Chapman 71, 73, B Langer (Ger) 74, 70; P O'Malley (Aus) 74, 70; L Westwood 75, 69, M Ramayah (Mal) 70, 74, P-U Johansson (Swe) 71, 73; P Fowler (Aus) 75, 69

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
USTRIA								
gls	10	90	good	varied	fair	fine	-3	27/1
(Very good skiing but lowest pistes icy)								
Kitzbühel	60	110	icy	varied	icy	cloud	-2	27/1
(Icy conditions with strong winds and snow showers)								
bergurgl	55	130	good	varied	good	fair	-10	27/1
(Excellent piste conditions after overnight snow)								
RANCE								
lpe d'Huez	115	280	good	powder	good	fine	-7	27/1
(Superb powder skiing after 25cm of fresh snow)								
es Arcs	140	305	good	varied	good	fine	-6	26/1
(Most lifts now open; excellent piste skiing)								
hamonix	75	415	good	powder	good	fine	0	26/1
(Knee-deep powder skiing; awesome conditions; no queues)								
ignes	190	280	good	powder	good	sun	-7	27/1
(Superb skiing everywhere, on and off piste)								
al d'Isère	130	240	good	powder	good	sun	-6	27/1
(Outstanding powder snow everywhere; perfect skiing)								
TALY								
ervinia	80	250	good	varied	good	fine	-3	26/1
(Gale force winds have limited skiing; outlook excellent)								
WITZERLAND								
Montana	120	265	good	varied	good	sun	-10	26/1
(Excellent skiing everywhere; powdery snow)								
rindelwald	35	120	good	powder	good	fine	-3	27/1
(Wonderful skiing with new snow, odd icy patch low down)								
erbier	50	220	good	powder	good	fine	-5	26/1
(Lovely, flattering piste skiing; resort busy)								

ource: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

CALCUTTA
Second A Test

INDIA A: First Innings

V S Rathore c Nixon b Cork	4
J Singh lbw b Chapple	4
A A Muzumdar b Cork	7
R Dravid run out	25
*P K Amre c Nixon b Cork	5
S C Ganguly c Salisbury b Chapple	24
†V S Yadav st Nixon b Stemp	0
S V Bahutule b Patel	21
U Chatterjee not out	72
R K Chauhan lbw b Chapple	19
P L K Mhambrey lbw b Stemp	12
Extras (lb 19, nb 4)	23
Total	216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-8, 3-28, 4-47, 5-68, 6-88, 7-95, 8-123, 9-194

BOWLING: Cork 25-5-48-3; Chapple 20-9-37-3; Gallian 4-0-17-0; Stemp 12.3-4-33-2; Patel 13-5-24-1; Salisbury 10-0-31-0, Vaughan 3-1-7-0.

ENGLAND A: N V Knight, M P Vaughan, J E R Gallian, *A P Wells, D L Hemp, D G Cork, †P A Nixon, G Chapple, I D K Salisbury, M M Patel, R D Stemp.

Umpires: A V Jayaprakash and S K Bansal

HARARE: Tour match (first day of three): President's XI 301-4 declared. Pakistan 76-2.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Sydney: Victoria 336-9 (M Elliot 99) v New South Wales. Hobart: South Australia 336-7 (J Siddons 99 no) v Tasmania.

CASTLE CUP: Johannesburg: Transvaal 292-4 (M Rushmere 134, A Pollock 74) v Western Province; Paarl: Orange Free State 268-4 (L Wilkinson 101, M Arthur 61, H Cronje 55 no) v Boland: Durban: Northern Transvaal 270 (M Rindel 118) and 10-3. Natal 208 (N Johnson 71, L Klusener 54; S Elworthy 7-65). East London: Eastern Province 281 (D Callaghan 111, D Richardson 105) v Border.

BADMINTON

TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: Quarter-finals: A B Wiranata (Indo) bt J Van Dijk (Holl) 15-5, 18-11; J Supriianto (Indo) bt F Permadi (Taiwan) 15-3, 15-9; H Arbi (Indo) bt H Susanto (Indo) 11-15, 15-5, 15-11; A Budi Kusuma (Indo) bt L Tiong Ping (Indo) 11-15, 18-17, 15-12. Women: Quarter-finals: S Susanti (Indo) bt C Martin (Den) 11-8, 11-4; Y Zhaoying (China) bt R Kyung-min (S Kor) 8-11, 11-6, 11-9; L Xiao Qing (Swe) bt M Audina (Indo) 11-4, 11-9; B Soo-hyun (S Kor) bt H Jingna (China) 7-11, 12-11, 11-1

FOOTBALL

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Postponed: Waterlooville v Poole.
WELSH COLLEGES LEAGUE (Under-19): Llanelli 3 Afan 3.
FAI CUP: Postponed: Cobh Ramblers v Shelbourne: Athlone Town v Home Farm, Bohemians v Limerick, Glebe North v Shamrock Rovers
KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES. Postponed: Conwy v Porthmadog.
FRIENDLY: Postponed: Derby v IFK Gothenburg.
TORONTO: SkyDome Cup: Canada 1 Portugal 1

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 77 Atlanta 68, Portland 106 Detroit 89, Phoenix 92 Indiana 88; New York 87 Los Angeles Clippers 74, Golden State 121 Washington 118; Orlando 102 Chicago 99; San Antonio 103 Houston 100; Utah 120 Seattle 108

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 104 (Polin 28, Youngblood 25) Hemel Hempstead 77 (Koochoi 24, Noel 21)

EUROPEAN CHAMPION CLUBS' CUP: Semi-final series: Group A: Real Madrid 76 Maccabi Tel Aviv 64. Benfica (Port) 77 PAOK Salonika (Gr) 75 (in Almada).

Group B: Efes Pilsen (Tur) 77 Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 60 (in Istanbul); Limoges CSP (Fr) 89 Barcelona (Sp) 57; Olympiakos (Gr) 84 Badalona (Sp) 53 (in Athens).

GOLF

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Phoenix Open: Leaders after first round (US unless stated): 64: D Waldorf. 66: H Irwin. 67: J Furyk, B Lohr, T Watson. 68: J D Blake, B Burns, M Bradley, S Elkington (Aus), N Ozaki (Japan), B McCallister, B Crenshaw, L Janzen, S Jones, N Lancaster, L Wadkins. 69: B Claar, J Wilson, T Purtzer, D Tewell, M Standly, B Glasson, R Eates, A Magee, S Kendall, B Wadkins, B Mayfair, G Waite (NZ), P Bates. Other scores: 70: V Singh (Fiji). 71: N Faldo (GB). 73: D Feherty (GB) 75: J Parnevik (Swe).

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S TOUR MATCHES: Bracknell 3, Russia 1: England Under-21 0 Russia 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 1 New Jersey 0, Detroit 5 Calgary 1; Florida 4 Tampa Bay 2; Philadelphia 3 Hartford 2; St Louis 3 Los Angeles 1.

BRITISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION: Premier division: Cancelled: Sheffield Steelers v Milton Keynes Kings.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Postponed: Salford v Leeds.

SNOOKER

NEWPORT: Welsh Open: (England unless stated) Quarter-finals: S Davis bt M Flowerdew 5-3; P Ebdon bt J Swail (N Ire) 5-4; C Small (Scot) bt S Hendry (Scot) 5-1

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN, Melbourne: Men's singles: Semi-finals: A Agassi (US) bt A Krickstein (US), 6-4, 6-4, 3-0, ret

Women's doubles. Final: J Novotna (Cz) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Belo) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4

Boys' singles: Quarter-finals: B Rehnqvist (Swe) bt T Susnjak (NZ) 6-4, 6-3. L Jongmin (Aus) bt J-F Bachelot (Fr) 6-1, 4-6, 6-1; N Kiefer (Ger) bt R Cadart (Fr) 6-1, 6-4; U-J Seetzen (Ger) bt D Bracciali (It) 6-4, 7-5

Girls' singles: Semi-finals: S Drake Brockman (Aus) bt Y Basting (Holl) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, A Ellwood (Aus) bt J Mi-ra (S Kor) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Doubles: Final: C Morariu (US) and L Varmuzova (S Marino) bt S Obata and N Urabe (Japan) 6-1, 6-2.

TELFORD: LTA junior tournament (GB unless stated): Boys: Semi-finals: O Rochus (Bel) bt R Sproga (Lat), 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, S Dickson bt A Mackin 6-2, 6-2. Girls: Semi-finals: A Coulter (Can) bt H Collin 6-3, 6-4, J Henin (Bel) bt E Cheung 6-1, 6-3

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SPORT

SATURDAY JANUARY 28 1995

TENNIS 44
SAMPRAS FACES
AGASSI IN
DREAM FINAL

United ban Cantona for rest of season

Peter Ball reports on the champions' decision to suspend the fiery Frenchman after his astonishing behaviour on Wednesday evening

Edwards: "Game is bigger than United"

MANCHESTER UNITED yesterday put the club's reputation and the wider interests of football above the pursuit of trophies when it suspended Eric Cantona, the France striker, until the end of the season for his attack on a spectator on Wednesday night. It is, as United intended, an exemplary punishment. Its severity is "unprecedented", as Martin Edwards, the United chairman, claimed.

"We felt we had a duty to the game and our own reputation to think of and that is reflected by the length of the ban," Edwards said. Cantona, who became involved with the spectator after being sent off during United's 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace, has also been fined two weeks' wages, around £15,000, and will miss at least 17 matches in the next four months, the longest suspension in English football since 1964, when a number of players, including Peter Swan, David Layne and Tony Kay, were suspended *sine die* for their part in a match-fixing scandal.

"In reaching this decision, which the player fully accepts, Manchester United has had regard to its responsibilities both to the club itself and to the game as a whole," a statement by Maurice Watkins, the club solicitor, said. "The club and the player regret the circumstances which have led to this punishment."

It represents considerable sacrifice on United's part, damaging hopes of retaining the FA Carling Premiership or the FA Cup this season. "We have proved here that the reputation of Manchester United is above trophies," Edwards said. "It may well be that we have put the league and the cup in jeopardy by the action we have taken, but the game is bigger than Manchester United."

Whether it will be a pre-emptive punishment, forestalling harsher measures by the Football Association, remains to be seen, although the speed and severity of United's response to the FA's pressure should count in Cantona's favour. The player has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute and there is also a police investigation in progress.

The United directors have taken strong action, but they have tempered justice with mercy, not bowing to some of the more hysterical demands for Cantona's head, or, at least, his dismissal. Edwards confirmed that that had been discussed at the hastily-convened meeting on Thursday evening.

At least one director advocated terminating Cantona's contract, but wiser counsels prevailed, with Alex Ferguson, the manager, almost certainly leading the way in persuading them that this ban sufficed. It leaves the way open for Cantona, 28, to rejoin the fold if he wishes.

Judging on his past history, Cantona may not want to, but his feelings for United may this time persuade him to bite the bullet. "He is upset about what happened and has accepted the punishment," Edwards said. Ironically, Cantona had begun negotiations to extend his contract last Monday, then much to United's delight.

Nobody condones Cantona's action in leaping the fence to kick a supporter, whatever the provocation, but when Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, described that as "unprecedented", it was only the presence of television cameras beaming the assault to the nation which made it so.

In 1937, Dixie Dean, one of the greatest of English footballing legends, hit a spectator who abused him as he left the field at Tottenham after Everton's 4-3 defeat in an FA Cup-tie. The police congratulated him on his response. *Autres temps, autres moeurs*, as Cantona might reflect.

Harry Gregg, United's volatile Northern Ireland international goalkeeper, admits that he was twice involved in incidents with supporters. More recently, there have been several controversial instances, if not strictly comparable, including Brian Clough, who, when manager of Nottingham Forest, struck spectators when they came onto the pitch in celebration at a game in 1989. A year ago, Mark Hughes, another United international striker, had an angry altercation with a spectator at Swindon.

Paul Ince, the United midfield player, may be added to that list, with police reportedly investigating a complaint by a supporter that Ince hit him in the aftermath of the Cantona incident on Wednesday. United have not considered Ince's involvement so far.

Clough escaped with a censure and a £5,000 fine. By those standards, Cantona may feel hard done by.

Season's suspension, page 1
Media view, page 3
Simon Jenkins, page 20
Diary, page 20
***Letters*, page 21**

Australia openers undaunted by first England century of series

Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, watches Gatting claim another boundary during the second day of the fourth Test match. Photograph: Graham Morris

Gatting triumphs in character test

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN ADELAIDE

AS RECENTLY as a week ago, there was no reason to think that Mike Gatting would play again on this tour. He admits as much himself. Yesterday, however, he added to the extreme circumstances, that restored him once again to the England side, his first Test century since 1987.

The curtain calls for Gatting have been many and varied, but this is the one that he will remember. On the ground where he last made an overseas hundred for England, in December 1986, he battled through almost seven hours for 117. His tortured progress through the nineties, a journey that occupied 78 minutes and created a level of tension through inactivity that only Test cricket can contrive, held the attention of the second-day crowd in this fourth Test.

Gatting's pursuit of the century, England's first in this series, almost brought the match to a standstill. Yet the tenacity with which he clung to his wicket, against magnificent fast bowling from Craig McDermott and a teasing spell by Shane Warne, told how much it meant to him. Once the England innings had come to an abrupt and unsatisfactory end and Australia had begun their reply with ominous haste, Gatting explained the deeper reasons.

Among his many virtues are loyalty and sensitivity. He remembers those who have been good to him and he cares for them. So when, yesterday, the death of one good friend and influence coincided with the funeral of another, Gatting was driven as much by melancholy as by the state of the tour and the generally unflattering assessment of his part in it.

Harry Sharp, the Middlesex scorer throughout Gatting's time at the county and a man he loved dearly, was buried yesterday. Hours earlier had come the death of Fred Bennett, one of Australian cricket's most genial administrators, who had brought Gatting into Sydney grade cricket with Balmain in the late 1970s. So, instead of savouring his triumph last night, Gatting was stating his sadness and dedicating his innings appropriately.

> 'Here, Gatting showed it is possible still to be worth a Test place at 37'
>
> **John Woodcock, page 44**

In truth, it was a memorable innings because of the circumstances, rather than the style, in which it was played. Gatting's involvement in this series has been by default virtually from the start, and now, through the latest disruption of Graeme Hick's back condition, he reclaimed his natural No 3 slot.

Coming to the crease at 93 for one meant he could bat with less pressure than of late, and he prospered for it. He enjoyed the short square boundaries, flexing those powerful forearms with some of the old purpose. But, when he resumed yesterday on 50, his passage was not untroubled.

Running between the wickets is not a strong point of his game, and he was fortunate to survive a single to Blewett when 64. Almost immediately, an imploring leg-before appeal from McDermott went unanswered. McDermott, who had bowled Gatting with a no-ball when he had made only 19, wore the exasperated look of a man who suspects that it will not be his match.

It was a good morning for England, especially so after they had lost Graham Thorpe during a menacing first spell from Warne, who not only looked looser and more focused than on Thursday, but spun the ball appreciably. Thorpe was out in his third over, nudging a leg-break to slip, but Gatting and John Crawley added a further 68 by lunch, during which the bookmakers on the tennis lawns behind the stand were offering the draw at 4-1 on.

England's extended tail decried such odds, however, as the afternoon was to demonstrate. Between lunch and tea, four wickets were lost for 67 runs. Soon afterwards, the remaining three went down without a run being added. The eventual score of 353 had not only taken longer to compile than was ideal for a team seeking victory, it was also insufficient even to insure England against defeat.

Gatting could not be blamed. Throughout the second session, he lost partners at inconvenient moments. First, it was Crawley, bowled behind his legs by Warne from round the wicket. Steve Rhodes might have been out to either of his first two balls from Warne, but finally gave McDermott a deserved wicket with a hideously unbalanced shot. His contribution with the bat is now 29 in six innings.

When Chris Lewis was out to a characteristically thoughtless pull, Gatting had reached 99 by way of 35 minutes rooted on 95. The final run was to come no more easily, as he played French cricket against Warne and simply survived against McDermott, who was entering the eleventh over of a spell in the hottest part of the day when Gatting jabbed a short ball to the left of Steve Waugh at gully.

He set off with confidence for the run, only to see the doubt in his partner's eyes. "Daffy [DeFreitas] was a bit reticent; we had to negotiate in the middle of the pitch," Gatting said. Selflessly, DeFreitas ran on, but the pair had barely crossed when Waugh's throw, after a superb stop, missed the stumps. Gatting reached sanctuary with a sigh of relief and then, with unusual ostentation, kissed the crown on his helmet.

"It's been a rough trip," he said later. "I owed the skipper a few runs and this is a bit like getting my first century again. I have not done as well as I would have liked here, but cricket goes in circles sometimes and I had my share of luck during this innings. It means a lot to me, especially as I was watching the boys play at Bendigo last week and thinking I would only need the shades and suncream for the rest of the trip."

All of Gatting's nine previous Test centuries were grouped between the 31st and 58th of his 78 games for England. If this spoils the symmetry, he will not mind a bit, though the pity of it is that he may not have done enough.

Mark Taylor and Michael Slater savaged some undisciplined England bowling in blissful sunshine, exposing the placid nature of this pitch and looking intent on winning, rather than saving, this game. If England should concede a substantial first-innings advantage, more batting heroics may yet be required.

ADELAIDE SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First Innings

G A Gooch c M E Waugh b Fleming (147min, 105 balls, 4 fours)	47
*M A Atherton c Boon b Fleming (273min, 215 balls, 8 fours)	80
M W Gatting c S R Waugh b McIntyre (411min, 286 balls, 14 fours)	117
G P Thorpe c Taylor b Warne (35min, 34 balls, 5 fours)	26
J P Crawley b Warne (121min, 118 balls, 2 fours)	28
†S J Rhodes c Taylor b McDermott (27min, 20 balls, 1 four)	6
C C Lewis c Blewett b McDermott (33min, 20 balls, 1 four)	10
P A J DeFreitas c Blewett b McIntyre (28min, 32 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)	21
A R C Fraser run out (McGrath,sub/McIntyre) (24min, 22 balls)	7
D E Malcolm b McDermott (3min, 1 ball)	0
P C R Tufnell not out (6min, 5 balls)	0
Extras (b 2, lb 5, w 2, nb 2)	11
Total (141.3 overs, 559min)	353

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-93 (Atherton 45), 2-175 (Gatting 46), 3-211 (Gatting 53), 4-286 (Gatting 94), 5-293 (Gatting 95), 6-307 (Gatting 99), 7-334 (Gatting 105), 8-353 (Gatting 117), 9-353 (Gatting 117).

BOWLING: McDermott 41-15-66-3 (nb 2: 6-3-13-0, 5-4-2-0, 6-0-12-0, 4-2-4-0, 7-2-12-0, 11-3-22-2, 2-1-1-1); Fleming 25-6-65-2 (w 1: 8-2-11-0, 6-0-18-1, 6-2-23-1, 3-1-9-0, 2-1-6-0); Blewett 16-4-59-0 (5-1-23-0, 6-1-14-0, 1-1-0-0, 4-1-22-0); Warne 31-9-72-2 (8-1-13-0, 4-0-21-0, 9-2-21-1, 13-6-17-1); McIntyre 19.3-3-51-2 (w 1: 3-1-7-0, 5-1-16-0, 6-1-13-0, 5 3-0-15-2); M E Waugh 9-1-33-0 (4-1-16-0, 5-0-17-0).

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater not out (90min, 60 balls, 3 fours)	36
*M A Taylor not out (90min, 74 balls, 4 fours)	43
Extras (lb 1, nb 1)	2
Total (no wkt, 22 overs, 90min)	81

D C Boon, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G S Blewett, †I A Healy, S K Warne, C J McDermott, P E McIntyre and D W Fleming to bat.

BOWLING: Malcolm 6-1-23-0 (one spell); Fraser 5-0-27-0 (nb 2, one spell), Tufnell 6-2-10-0 (one spell); DeFreitas 3-0-11-0 (one spell), Lewis 2-0-9-0 (one spell).

Umpires: P D Parker (Australia) and S Venkataraghavan (India).

Replay umpire: S J Davis.

Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand).

PREVIOUS MATCHES: First Test (Brisbane): Australia won by 184 runs. Second Test (Melbourne): Australia won by 295 runs. Third Test (Sydney): Match drawn.

MATCH TO COME: Fifth Test: Perth (February 3 to 7).

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Francis demands goalkeeping curb

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

GERRY FRANCIS, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, has called for referees to take stronger action against goalkeepers who commit fouls outside the penalty area. He is to write to the Football Association and Referees' Association accordingly.

"We have to look at this before someone gets seriously injured," he said. "Goalkeepers are coming out for 50-50 balls more now because of the no back pass rule, and I don't think they should be treated differently to any other player. If an outfield player raises his foot above thigh high, a free kick is awarded; if a goalkeeper comes out with his feet head high, it is very dangerous. We ought to make sure it is not allowed."

Francis's concern arises from the incident in Tottenham's 1-0 defeat at Aston Villa on Wednesday, when Mark Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper, raced out of his area after 21 minutes in an attempt to reach a bouncing pass before Paul McGrath, his teammate, and Jürgen Klinsmann, the Tottenham forward. Bosnich clattered into Klinsmann, accidentally kneeing him in the face, and the Germany striker was taken off on a stretcher.

He sustained a bruised nose and slight concussion, and had a precautionary scan on Thursday before getting the all-clear to play in Tottenham's FA Cup fourth-round tie at Sunderland tomorrow.

Bosnich said: "The ball was swirling in the air as I came out to try to head it. I think I would have done so had Paul not got in the way, but it's a relief to find out that Jürgen was not seriously injured."

Francis was also perturbed that Robbie Hart, the referee, did not even award a free kick. He initially waved play on until realising that Klinsmann had been hurt. Francis said: "Jürgen rang me up when he saw it for the first time [on television] and he was clearly quite shaken."

Klinsmann: cup clearance

Peter Shilton, the former Plymouth Argyle manager and England goalkeeper, has had his 125-cap world record surpassed by Majed Abdullah, the Saudi Arabia forward. Fifa, the sport's world governing body, confirmed yesterday that Abdullah, 35, also known as Majed Ahmed Mohammed, had made 147 appearances for his country.

Unlikely upsets, page 47
FA Cup preview, page 47

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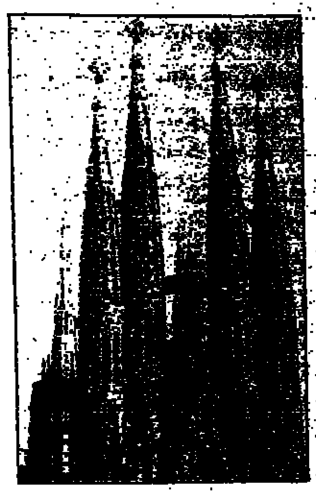

Take a weekend break in Barcelona for 20p

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PLUS: CDs at special prices, page 12

BOOKS

Penny Perrick on women's short stories

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PLUS: Urquhart bows out, page 15

GARDENING

Should the Lindley library be moved?

Page 10

PLUS: A new designer garden, page 12

TRAVEL

Golden days spent in glorious Goa

Page 24

PLUS: The best budget holidays, page 20

WEEKEND

NIRVANA IS A WELL-APPOINTED DIY STORE

By Neil Bennett

I have a guilty secret: I am a DIY addict. Most weekends you will see me in my local DIY shed, loading Polyfilla and paint, cement and sand into the back of the car. Before we continue, let's get one point clear. This is not out of choice. There is nothing I would like more than to hand someone £50,000 and ask them to modernise the wreck of a house my wife and I bought 14 months ago. But that sort of money is hard to come by, and the only cheap labour I can call on is myself.

As a result, I have become a member of the secret order of handymen. Two years ago I could not change a washer in a tap. I didn't even know that taps have washers. Now I could dismantle our central heating system, find the fault and put it back together — with only a few small leaks in places that do not matter. Much.

In the past year, I have knocked down walls and bricked in a doorway. Installed a kitchen. Plumbed in a sink and a garden tap. Inserted steel straps to prevent the front of our house falling into the street. Built a cupboard and a garden gate. Opened a fireplace. All this besides countless hours of stripping and sanding, painting and varnishing. And the house is still less than half finished.

At least I am not on my own. Verdict, the retail analysis firm, estimates that the total DIY market is worth £9 billion a year, and should grow by at least another £1 billion by 1998. While this is only a fraction of the size of the grocery market, it is almost as large as the electricals market in video recorders and televisions. Every year millions of people visit DIY sheds, and surveys show that half of them go because they actually want to.

This week's acquisition of Texas Homecare by Homebase, the chain owned by J. Sainsbury, shows that this fifth column of DIY fanatics is on the march. The deal will make Homebase the second largest DIY chain in the country, after B&Q, with more than 250 stores. It is also the most successful chain, with profits that are the envy of its ailing rivals. Its storming growth in the past 14 years has been achieved by avoiding the "Pile it high, sell it cheap" approach that dominates the industry.

One of the worst things about doing DIY is the places you have to go to get the materials, to do the job you never wanted to attempt. The seventh circle of hell probably resembles a DIY superstore. As soon as you enter, you know you are totally on your own. You trail up and down the endless aisles of the aircraft hangar interior, searching desperately for the packet of 1½in number 8 screws you need to put up some shelves.

Don't bother asking any of the rare store assistants you may encounter — they have no more idea of where anything is than you do. If you do, by chance, finally arrive in the right section, you can be sure that the screws you need will have sold out — because they are the screws that everyone else wants and the store has not had the wit to organise its stock control properly. You leave with the wrong screws, botch up the job completely and are then forced to stare at it every morning for the next five years.

Homebase is different. The stores are decorated in friendly green, so you feel less intimidated by the boxes of angular things that line every aisle. The staff may not all be Isambard Kingdom Brunel, but at least they

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

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GALLERIES

Richard Cork

MAN RAY: Now that Dada and Surrealism have returned to favour among young artists, Man Ray's reputation is high. So his Serpentine Gallery show is well-timed, and not large enough to dwell on his weaknesses. As a photographer, Man Ray is outstanding. Although images such as the witty *Violon d'Ingres are over-familiar*, the original print shown here has a wonderful velvet subtlety and shows the deftness of his retouching. Man Ray could do anything with the camera, but he always resented his photographs' success. He wanted to be acclaimed as a painter, too, but never fulfilled his ambitions in this direction. The paintings shown here help to explain why, but they form a resourceful part of Man Ray's multi-faceted talents. And the Surrealist objects displayed in the cases retain much of their mystery.
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (0171-402 6075), until Mar 12. ♿

IMPRESSIONISM IN BRITAIN: In one sense, it is surprising that the first major survey of British Impressionism is only now being mounted at the Barbican Art Gallery. But Britain was slow to recognise Impressionism's importance, and many of the young *artists who espoused its cause here* later recanted. The show opens with paintings of British scenes by the French Impressionists, above all Monet's great views of the misty Thames. But it soon shifts to homegrown art, and a complex picture emerges. Many painters adopted only the most superficial aspects of Impressionist technique, and dressed up their work with story-telling and sentimentality. But in outstanding canvases, such as the seaside images painted by Wilson Steer at Walberswick in Suffolk, the excitement and freshness of the Impressionist vision comes through. The abundance of little-known names ensures that the show has much to teach us.
Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 4141), until May 7. ♿

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

THE WRECK OF THE TITANIC: For many years the idea of reaching the wreck of the Titanic on the ocean floor seemed as remote as that of walking on the moon. Now both feats have been achieved they are rather taken for granted. But this exhibition brings the magnitude of the *Titanic disaster, and the* excitement of the ship's exhumation, vividly to life. Included are ship's fittings and passengers' personal belongings recovered from the sea bed, as well as a four-metre model of the wreck, and film footage taken on the spot.
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (0181-858 4422). Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday, noon-5pm, until April 2. Admission £4.95, concessions £3.95. ♿

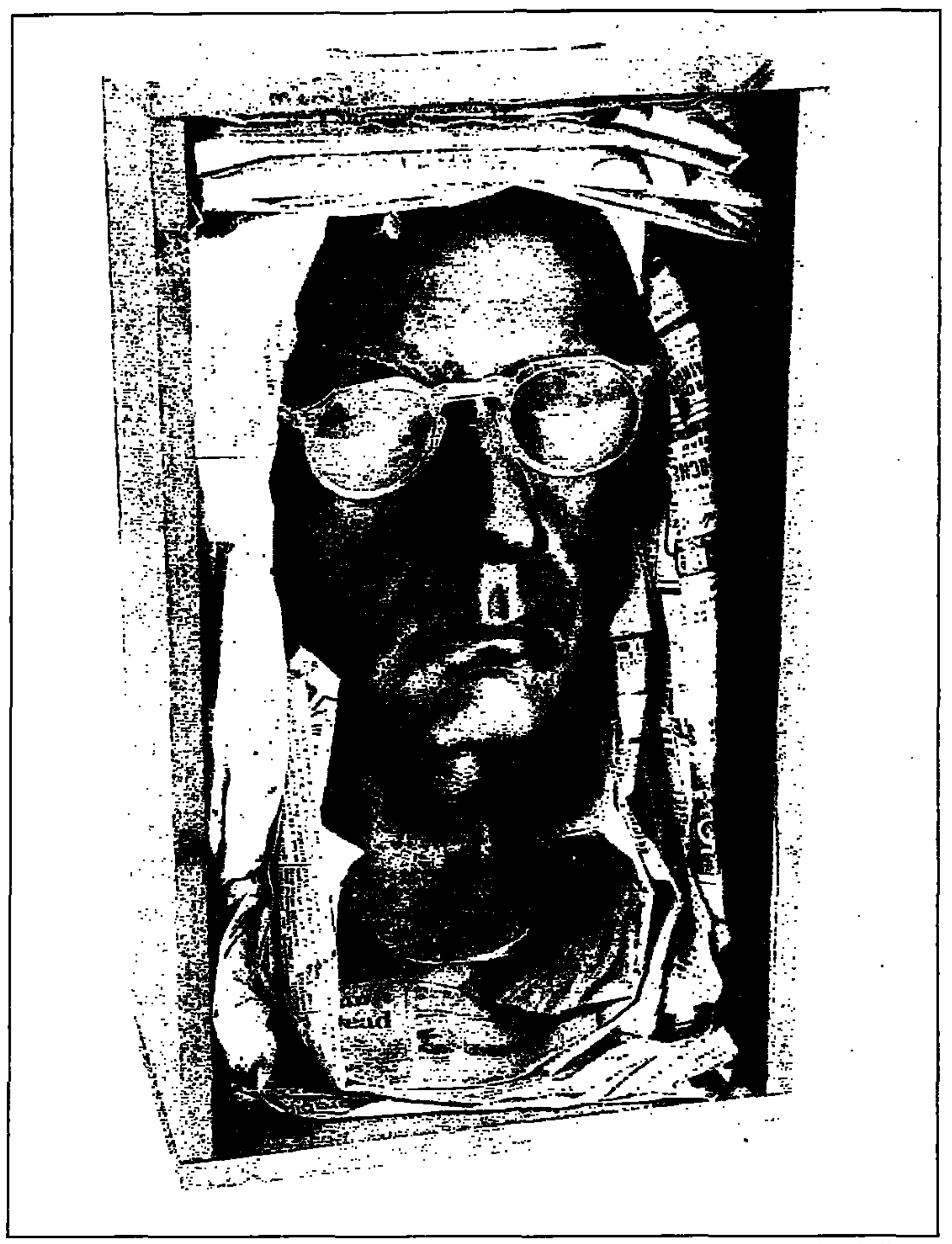
BALKAN COSTUME: While battle rages in Bosnia, other parts of the former Yugoslavia remain relatively tranquil, with older patterns of life little disturbed. Such is the case with the southern Republic of Macedonia which shares much of its culture with the immediately adjacent areas of southern Bulgaria. Some of the folk costumes in the Museum of Mankind's new show are still worn by older members of the community, though jeans and *T-shirts are gaining ground*. The Waller Collection, from which these outfits are drawn, was put together in the 1960s and 1970s by Dr Diane Waller, and covers most of the previous century.
Museum of Mankind, 6 Burlington Gardens, London W1 (0171-323 8043). Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday 2.30-6pm, until Mar 26. ♿

DANCE

John Percival

THE RAID: *Shobanah* Jeyasingh's new work for her company *is based on a popular Indian street* game, *Kabbadi*, in which one player has to penetrate the territory held by the others. It has music by Ilaiaraaja, who is equally at home writing for Indian films or the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the designer Keith Khan has been praised for his confident use *of colour. For its premiere tour, Raid* shares a bill with Jeyasingh's 1992 creation, *Making of Maps*.
Borough Hall, Greenwich, Royal Hill, London, SE10 ♿ (0181-293 9741), previews tonight and tomorrow at 8pm; **Nottingham Playhouse** ♿ (0115 9419419), Thursday Feb 2, 7.30pm: then Aberystwyth, Aberdeen, Bedford, Canterbury, Leicester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sterling, and at **The Place Theatre**, 17 Dukes Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), Feb 28 to Mar 4.

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: The national relaunch tour resumes this week at Leeds with programmes of the latest productions by Christopher Bruce, the company's new director, and international choreographers Martha Clarke, Jiri Kylian and Ohad Naharin. Bruce's popular *Rooster*, to Rolling Stones music, joins the repertoire next month.
Grand Theatre Leeds ♿ (0113 2459351), Tuesday 31 to Feb 4; **Apollo**, Oxford ♿ (01865 244544), Feb 7-11; **Derngate**, Northampton ♿ *(01604 24811)*, Feb 14-18; **Theatre Royal**, Brighton (01273 328488), Mar 1-4; **Marlowe**, Canterbury ♿ (01227 787787), Mar 7-11.



Surrealism personified: a self-portrait by Man Ray, which is on show at the Serpentine Gallery

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL: Anyone who still thinks the Theatre de Complicite is all preciosity and show should see this spare, moving tribute to the spirit of survival, doughtily embodied by Lilo Baur as a tough, salty but infinitely sympathetic peasant, hermit and dreamer.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Monday to Friday, 7.30pm; Saturdays, 8pm. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30pm. ♿

DANGEROUS CORNER: J.B. Priestley's first and most popular play, a sort of *An Inspector Calls* minus the moralising. Keith Baxter's production, with himself and Gayle Hunnicutt as an urbanely unhappy couple, catches both the tension and the 1930s atmosphere.
***Whitehall**, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735).* Evenings, Monday to Saturday, 8pm; matinées, Wednesdays, 3pm; Saturdays, 5pm.

● *More theatre, page 6*

FILMS

Geoff Brown

BARCELONA (12): Whit Stillman, writer-director of *Metropolitan*, makes a pleasing return with this elegant account of young Americans facing problems of the heart and politics in Spain during the early 1980s. The lead actors (Taylor Nichols, Chris Eigeman) and the dry, literate dialogue come straight from the educated New York world of *Metropolitan*: who else but a Stillman character would dance while reading from the *Book of Proverbs*? But the director is far from stuck in his rut: greater visual control, and the script's crazy mix of terrorist incidents, disco dancing and salesman manuals, show him gaining new confidence and widening his range. A quiet delight.
Odeon Haymarket (01426 915 353).

EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN (PG): So much tasty food is prepared on-screen that you should eat before watching Ang Lee's rewarding successor to *The Wedding Banquet*. Widowed Mr Chu is *Taipei's chief culinary* wizard, though his meals never give his three grown daughters much pleasure. In his first film made in his own homeland, Taiwan, Lee makes a film that balances the funny with the serious, and never neglects the sensuous pleasures of food and sex.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742); **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722); **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233); **Renoir** (0171-837 8402); **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366).

● *More films, page 6*

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

KING PRIAM: English National Opera joins the celebration of Tippett's 90th birthday with the production of his second opera by Tom Cairns, whose staging of *The Second Mrs Kong* was one of the operatic high spots of last year. *Priam* is concise, direct, spare, with not a note wasted, composed perhaps in conscious reaction to the exuberant *Midsummer Marriage*, yet it still achieves amazing epic stature. Paul Daniel is the conductor, and the the cast is headed by Andrew Shore in the title role, Janice Cairns as Hecuba, Jean Rigby (who else?) as Helen of Troy, and Thomas Randle as Achilles. There are only four performances.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-836 3161), Feb 3, Feb 9, Feb 11, Feb 17, 7.30pm. ♿

COSI FAN TUTTE: Forget (if you can) the pretty frocks and relish a cast of six superb singers from whom Jonathan Miller draws performances of great depth and resonance. Thomas Allen's world-weary, dead-behind-the-eyes Don Alfonso is alone worth the price of a ticket, and the way the two nice young officers (Bruce Ford and Simon Keenlyside) turn decidedly nasty in the second act is especially disturbing. Amanda Roocroft and Susan Graham are the sisters, and Ann Murray their Absolutely Fabulous mentor. Evelino Pidò is the conductor.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Wednesday 31, Friday Feb 3, 7pm. ♿

JAZZ

Clive Davis

PAUL MOTIAN: The return of the power trio. In an earlier incarnation, Paul Motian re-defined the function of the jazz drummer through his contribution to the delicate, impressionistic trio led by the pianist Bill Evans. Less interested in marking time than in responding to the crystalline figures sketched by his two partners, Motian became a role model for subsequent generations. In the decades since then he has shifted towards a rugged brand of abstraction, though unlike many of his peers he has not exchanged volume for subtlety. *His new JMT album, Reincarnation of a Love Bird*, finds him reinterpreting standards in the company of his so-called "Elektric Bebop band", but for his visit to London he is accompanied by two longstanding collaborators, guitarist Bill Frisell and the post-Coltrane saxophonist Joe Lovano.
***Jazz Café**, Parkway, London NW1* (0171-916 6000), tomorrow.

HUMPHREY LYTTELTON/JOE TEMPERELEY: He has been around for so long, in his various guises as author, wit and bon vivant, that he is often taken for granted, but it bears repeating that Humphrey Lyttelton has been responsible for some of the finest jazz this country has produced. For his north-of-the-border dates he is reunited with the baritone saxophonist Joe Temperley, who worked with him some 30 years ago before going off to try his luck in New York. Now a respected member of Wynton Marsalis's repertory orchestra at Lincoln Center, Temperley has just recorded a tribute to his old friend and fellow Scot, the late Jimmy Deuchar.
Music Hall, Aberdeen ♿ (01224 641122), Thursday Feb 1, 8pm; **Queen's Hall**, Clerk St, Edinburgh ♿ (0131-668 2019), Friday Feb 1, 8.30pm; **City Hall**, Glasgow (0141-227 5511), Saturday Feb 4, 8pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

MORRISSEY: His songs and statements are so minutely scrutinised that Morrissey's prowess as a live performer tends to get overlooked. But he has a formidable stage presence and his four-piece "rockabilly" band, featuring guitarists Alain Whyte and Boz Boorer, has flowered into a world-class act.
Barrowlands, Glasgow (0131-557 6969), Feb 3; **Motherwell Civic** ♿ *(01698 266166)*, Feb 4; **Usher Hall**, Edinburgh ♿ (0131-228 1164), Feb 5; **Sheffield City Hall** ♿ (0114 2619271), Feb 7; **Empress Ballroom**, Blackpool ♿ (01253 27786), Feb 8; **Corn Exchange**, Cambridge ♿ (01223 463204), Feb 9; **Aston Villa Leisure Centre**, Birmingham ♿ (0121-328 8330), Feb 11; **Island**, Ilford ♿ (0181-514 4400), Feb 12; **Guildhall**, Portsmouth ♿ (01705 824355), Feb 13; **Hull City Hall** ♿ (01482 226655), Feb 15; **St Georges Hall**, Bradford (01274 752000), Feb 16; **Newcastle City Hall** (0191-261 2606), Feb 17; **Regent**, Ipswich ♿ (01473 281480), Feb 19; **St Davids Hall**, Cardiff ♿ (01222 371236), Feb 20; **Colston Hall**, Bristol ♿ (0117 9223682), Feb 21; **Fairfield Hall**, Croydon ♿ (0181-688 9291), Feb 23; **Brixton Academy**, London SW9 ♿ (0171-326 1022), Feb 24; **Theatre Royal**, Drury Lane, London WC2 (0171-240 7472), Feb 26.

Bryan Ferry sings Roxy Music

BRYAN FERRY: His current album, *Mamouna*, is a desultory affair, but Bryan Ferry's British dates last October were surprisingly upbeat. It is a show that depends heavily on the ageing lounge lizard's dark charisma and the plentiful deployment of old Roxy Music favourites including "Virginia Plain" and "In Every Dream Home A Heartache".
Newcastle City Hall (0191-261 2606), Feb 2 and 3; **Sheffield City Hall** ♿ (0114 2619271), Feb 4; **Manchester Apollo** ♿ (0161-242 2560), Feb 6; **Hammersmith Apollo**, London W6 (0171-416 6080), Feb 7; **Wolverhampton Civic Hall** ♿ (01902 312030), Feb 8; **Bournemouth International Centre** ♿ (01202 297297), Feb 10; **Plymouth Pavilions** ♿ (01752 229922), Feb 11; **Cardiff International Arena** ♿ (01222 224488), Feb 12; **Regent**, Ipswich (01473 281480), Feb 14; **Oxford Apollo** ♿ (01865 244544), Feb 15; **Hull City Hall** ♿ (01482 226655), Feb 16.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

SCHOLARS ON SONG: Just occasionally I wish that Peter Phillips and his *estimable Tallis* Scholars put a little more robustness into their pristine performances of Renaissance choral music. But virtually nobody else in the world is covering this rich repertoire with quite such attention to intonation and blend. At St John's on Thursday a Palestrina motet, mass and Magnificat precedes two settings of the Miserere text; one, virtually unknown, by Festa; the other, virtually a chart-topper, by Allegri. A sumptuous eight-part Lassus motet completes the programme.
St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (0171-222 1061), Thursday Feb 2, 7.30pm.

BOULEZ ON BOULEZ: Composer-conductor Pierre Boulez and pianist Michael Beroff collaborate in a performance of Bartók's epic Second Piano Concerto, mighty cadenza and all, as the centrepiece of the final Boulez 70th birthday concert with the London Symphony Orchestra. Then Boulez conducts *Le visage nuptial*, his own setting of René Char. Not a piece that was tossed off lightly; Boulez began work on it in 1946 and declared it complete somewhere around 1989. That's not untypical of his working methods. The programme opens with a work that Boulez conducts as well as anybody in the world: Debussy's Nocturnes.
Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), tomorrow, 7.30pm. ♿

CHILDREN

LONDON

The Talkative Tortoise: Puppet show in which the King who will not stop talking finally learns to listen, thanks to the Talkative Tortoise.
The Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, Cross Street N1 (0171-226 1787), today and tomorrow at 11am and 3pm. Adults £5, children £4.50. ♿

Cinderella: Last chance to see. Catch a sweet and sing along at this family pantomime starring Rolf Harris.
Wimbledon Theatre, The Broadway SW19 (0181-540 0362), today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, tomorrow at 3pm. Adults and children from £10.50. ♿

First Lollipop Prom: Book now (schools only) for this live music concert aimed at five- to 11-year-olds. Music includes strings, jazz, heavy metal and brass.
Festival Hall, South Bank SE1 (0181-870 9624), Thursday, Feb 9 at 11am and 2pm. Admission free. ♿

Jack-in-the-box at the Toyfair

Come to the fair, Toyfair '95, to see dolls' houses, rocking horses, puppets, Noah's Arks, miniatures and teddy bears.
Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road SW3 (0171-361 4131). Run by the British Toymakers Guild (01225 442440). Today, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 11am-5.30pm; Monday, 10am-4.30pm. Children free, adults £2.50, family ticket £4.00.

BEDFORDSHIRE

"The Mufti from Istanbul": Adaptation, by Tara Arts, of Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* for seven- to 11-year-olds. Infectious music and dance in this story about a cloth merchant who craves to be a gentleman.
St George's Theatre, St George's Square, Luton (01582 21628), today at 1pm. Adults £1.80, Children £1.20. ♿

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Wildlife Trust: Instead of driving your parents batty, why not build a bat box — or an owl box.
3 Lea Brooks Close, Warboys (01487 822083), tomorrow at 1.30pm. Children 25p. Under-eights must be accompanied.

HAMPSHIRE

Dick Whittington is still looking for payments of gold in this amusing pantomime starring Lesley Joseph and John Nettles.
Mayflower Theatre, Commercial Road, Southampton (01703 229771), today at 2.30pm and 7pm, until Feb 5. Adults and children from £6.50. ♿

LINCOLNSHIRE

Tools of the Trade: Do you know what a "bucker" is? Find out at this exhibition featuring workmen's instruments from the last century to this.
Stamford Museum, Broad Street, Stamford (01780 66317). Last day today from 10am-5pm. Adults 40p, children 20p.

SCOTLAND

Fisherman's Cottage: Old boats, nets and an aquarium are some of the exhibits at the Scottish Fisheries Museum.
Harbour Head, Anstruther, Fife (01333 310628), today from 10am-4.30pm and tomorrow from 2pm-4.30. Adults £2.50, children £1.50. ♿

WALES

Lion Dance: Indian/Chinese music, drama, traditional folklore and costume.
Malaysian Culture night, Sherman Theatre, Senghennyd Road, Cardiff (01222 230451). Suitable for children over ten. Today at 7.30pm. Adults and children £6. ♿

YORKSHIRE

Lift a lever, wield a winch and get into gear at Mechanical Mayhem, a hands-on science and physics exhibition.
Bradford Industrial and Horses at Work Museum, Morside Mills, Moorside Road, Bradford (01274 631756), today and tomorrow from 10am-5pm. Admission free. ♿

JANE BIDDER

Ruth Gledhill visits Cwmyoy's crooked, medieval church: an architectural miracle

AT YOUR SERVICE

An oblique look at the altar was the most I could manage at first in this ancient church where the chancel *leans in the opp*osite direction to the nave and the tower rivals its better-known counterpart in Pisa. Brides who marry here are told when they walk up the aisle to look at their feet or they will lose their bearings. This is a church built not on sand or stone, but on subsidence, yet it has remained standing, if not upright. Cwmyoy church, where no part of the building is square or at right angles with any other part, is built on a landslip which, in 1923, called time on the Black Lion pub a few yards further up the hill. This being Wales, the pub then scrummed down to prop up the *church, its forward stones but*tressing the tower.

Cwmyoy is a place of miracle and legend, where a sense of Celtic Christian myth lies hidden in unexplained architectural features, and the local geology conspires to augment the fantasy. It takes its name from Cwm, or *valley of the yoke*. This is a reference to a yoke-shaped split in the valley behind. Near by is Holy Mountain, the Skirrid, which is also split. Local legend for centuries was that this happened on Good Friday when the veil of the temple was rent during the Crucifixion, but geologists have since dated the split to 10,000 years earlier.

The church dates from 1100, but lies in a valley which in Celtic times was settled throughout with hermitages, where monks, including the Welsh saint David, lived in the style of the Desert Fathers of Egypt. Nearby is the church of St Issu, dedicated to a hermit who lived near a well, in keeping with the Celtic tradition that a spring is a source of God's blessing.

RUTH GLEDHILL

Graveyard shift: the Rev Thomas Dunn at St Martin's Church

Outside, the gravestones lean against each other in a way horror film directors only dream about, evoking in me terrifying visions of nights where bodies strive to rise and walk again. There were about a dozen worshippers, of all ages, *waiting for the vicar running* several churches to a timetable "that defies Greenwich mean-time", as he put it, apologetically. The Rev Thomas Dunn changed hurriedly into his surplice and stole at the back of the church. At the end of our service, he faced another hurried undress and a quick dash *to a third* church.

He welcomed us warmly, seeming to stand and sit slightly lopsidedly, as if trying to compensate for his crooked church. "Congratulations on getting here through the floods this morning," he said, announcing his theme: we should "open ourselves in the spirit to the will of God" to bring "his kingdom into our lives and the lives of others," he said.

He paused often to pray and meditate, a helpful use of silence encouraged by the Bishop of Monmouth, the Right Rev Rowan Williams. Praising the builders, who had just levelled an aisle which "resembled the Atlantic Ocean", and the church members who cleaned up after them, he preached on the importance of living in the day. "We as individuals find it very difficult to live in the present moment, in the today of our lives, because of boredom, anxiety, pain. We like to go back and live in the 'good old days' of the past, or fantasise about the future. We do it, nations do it, political parties do it, churches do it.

"When they face the bleakness of the present moment they want to resort to the past or imagine there is a magic formula in the future that will lessen the pain of today." He explained his silences, when he would sit askew in his captain's chair in the aisle, giving us a chance to ponder the stoney deviancies around us. "In Wales there is a great tradition that says the sermon is the high point of the service," he said. "I think it is the silence." Silences enabled the words to "set afire through the spirit our own desire to live within the kingdom of God."

In our prayers, we asked "that those who are invited to lead the church may be prophets of truth and justice", and in our hymns, we marvelled as the elfin organist Flossie Bevan sang as vigorously as she pedalled, as if determined to bring the faintly hesitant congregation up to Welsh standards of volume and enthusiasm.

Besides the distinct possibility that the medieval masons knew more than might appear obvious, and deliberately built a church which could bend and twist to accommodate the subsidence without collapse, the church has its own modern miracle to relate. A valuable stone cross, possibly pre-Conquest, now stood proud in the nave, was stolen in 1967. A visitor, Irene Radcliffe, who had by chance taken a photograph, tracked it down to a London antique dealer after showing the photograph to a keeper at the British Museum. The dealer, having bought the cross in good faith, had earlier asked the same keeper to date it, and it was restored to the church. Mr Dunn, as he left for his next service, said: "People say it is a miracle the church is standing. I always say it is more of a miracle that in a depopulated area we have a living church."

St Martin's Church, Cwmyoy, near Llanfihangel Crucorney, Abergavenny, Gwent (01873 890349).

VICAR: The Rev Thomas Dunn.

ARCHITECTURE: Plain and simple inside, definitely not on the level. ★★★★

SERMON: Straight-down-the-line evangelical. ★★★

MUSIC: Three numbers from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, accompanied by Flossie Bevan on the harmonium organ. ★★

LITURGY: Newly-authorised communion service from the Church in Wales, depressingly similar to the Church of England's *Alternative Service Book*. ★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Invitation to tea from church warden and chat with vicar. ★

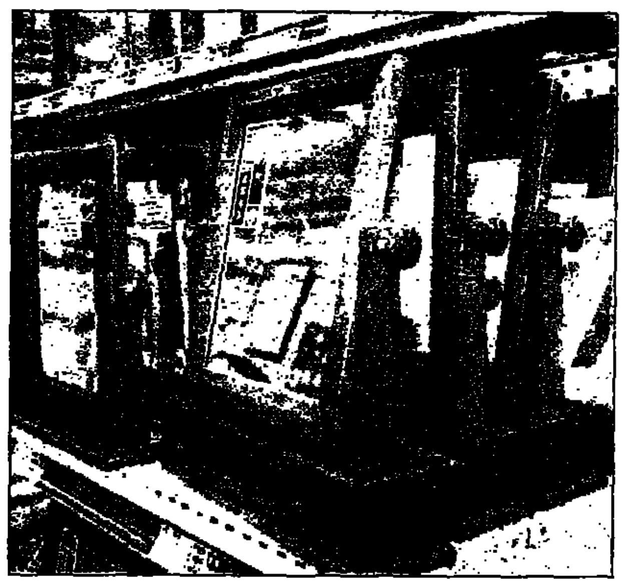
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Never before has sitting in a pew felt so like being aloft in a crow's nest. ★★★

★ stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

هكذا من الأصل

"You rarely see builders shopping at Homebase," Neil Bennett says. "Instead the store is full of hopeless amateurs like you and me wanting to bring that extra something to the living room"

Plants account for a quarter of the company's sales



"Interesting things leap into your trolley as you shop"

Continued from page 1

have a decent chance of differentiating between a screw and a nail. There are boxes of leaflets explaining how to do various jobs around the house. One "handy hint" on changing a door suggests, with overpowering logic, choosing a door the same height and width as the one you are replacing.

Homebase also has a markedly different range of goods from its rivals. Yes, there are still the bags of cement and paving slabs. But in the corner of most stores is a Laura Ashley concession, so you can not only choose the colour of your walls but decide which chintz to make your curtains from at the same time. There are also rows of brass lamps, paisley wallpaper, and tropical plants which cost up to £149.

In short, Homebase is the DIY store for the home-owning executive. The rise of power tools, which can drill, sand, plane and even drive screws in, means that brawn is no longer a pre-requisite of DIY, and another all-male preserve is being encroached upon by women as rapidly as the Church of England.

The DIY shed was invented in 1968 by a Mr Block and a Mr Quayle in Southampton when they opened a store on the edge of town and named it after their surnames — B&Q. They had realised there was a market for a self-service hardware store, like the supermarkets that had revolutionised the grocery business in the 20 years previously. Until then, if you wanted to work on your own house you had to find a hardware store and explain to the man behind the counter what you wanted in the language of the building trade, while the professionals behind you in the queue laughed and swore at your inexperience. The process was also interminably slow, since apart from queueing, the assistant would regularly disappear into the back room for up to 15 minutes to rummage for the tool you wanted.

Cheap land on the edge of town attracted DIY sheds. Since they had a minimum of staff and service they could sell hardware very, very cheaply. The format was soon copied all over Britain. The advent of the DIY shed coincided with rapid inflation which put the cost of employing a handyman beyond the reach of many ordinary people, so they were forced to fall back on their own ingenuity.

The DIY revolution was also assisted by the introduction of revolutionary products which enabled unskilled workmen to do jobs they could never have attempted before without a three-year apprenticeship. One of the pillars of the DIY business is the humble Rawlplug. Without it, fixing anything to a wall means having to dig a hole in the brickwork and insert a timber block — not a job to be attempted after three pints on Saturday lunchtime. Without the Rawlplug, millions of sets of crooked shelves would never have graced the living rooms of Britain.

By the beginning of the 1980s, most towns had DIY sheds. Many had a choice. That is when the price wars began. Chains such as B&Q and Texas decided the way to attract business was to shave another 20 pence off the price of a Black & Decker drill and to advertise the fact all over town. Even today the sheds are slugging it out among themselves as to who will sell the cheapest paint next Saturday.

This fails to recognise a basic instinct of the DIY man. He tends not to care if the job cost £100 or £105, as long as it looks decent and he won't have to do it again for another decade. Life, and certainly the weekend, is too short.

It took Sainsbury's to discover this. The company was a latecomer to the DIY market, opening its first store in Croydon in 1981. But from the outset it decided to operate differently. It brought in GIB, Belgium's largest DIY chain, as a partner, and today it still owns a quarter of the business. GIB provided the information on how to set up the stores, the ranges they should stock and the suppliers they should use.

However, Sainsbury's brought its own expertise from the food business. Homebase stores were laid out more clearly than their rivals. Stock control is notably better, and popular lines are rarely out of stock.

Service is also an important element in Homebase. Each store will cut your timber to size instead of forcing you to buy the standard shrink-wrapped products of rival stores. In the garden centre a trained horticulturalist will tell you if azaleas will flourish in your garden.

One man central to the creation of Homebase is Dino Adriano, who joined as general manager in 1981 and is now its chairman. From the outset he wanted to allow people to enjoy shopping at Homebase in the same way that filling your trolley at Sainsbury's has become a more important experience than simple necessity. "Homebase is a shopping experience. We have put together stores that are pleasant places to shop in," he says.

As a result, people who visit Homebase spend more. The chain's sales per square foot are 50 per cent higher than at Texas, the chain it is buying.

That is no accident either. In among the screws and hammers at Homebase are all sorts of interesting things that just seem to leap into your trolley as you shop. One of the areas where the company makes most of its money is on plants, which account for a quarter of sales. Sainsbury has turned its experience in selling fresh produce in its stores to selling high-price yuccas for the home.

In other DIY stores, walking into the gardening section is as pleasureable as stumbling across an unexpected oil slick, particularly in winter. In my local DIY shed, the stunted plants the store failed to sell last spring are still struggling to survive, perhaps in the hope that someone will eventually pay £1.99 and take them to some fertile ground. Around the edge of the compound, rusty wheelbarrows jostle for space with rotting fence poles and split bags of peat. If this were someone's garden, the neighbours would complain to the environmental health officer. But this is actually a store, where every piece of the detritus has a price attached to it. Shoplifting in this place would be considered a public service.

No garden centre is a happy place in winter, but at least Homebase keeps its outside areas clear of dying stock, and tries to flog the odd plant, such as winter pansies, to the year-round gardener. There is only one unusual feature of these outdoor areas — they are colder than anywhere else in the world, particularly on Saturday afternoons. This could just be coincidence, but knowing Sainsbury's it is all part of a sophisticated plot to drive you inside to spend even more on yucca plants and frightening lampshades.

> ‘Two years ago I couldn't even change a washer in a tap; now I can strip down our central heating’

In fact there is a price attached to all the benefits Homebase offers. When you reach the check-out the bill always seems to be significantly higher than at other DIY sheds. Naturally, Sir David Sainsbury said this week that Homebase's prices are 3 per cent cheaper than at Texas. But Sainsbury's is a master of managing statistics so they show that its supermarkets are the cheapest around. Undoubtedly the store always has a few dirt-cheap special offers. But most shoppers at Homebase would reckon they pay perhaps 5 per cent more overall for the sheer pleasure of shopping in a place that does not resemble a nuclear bunker in the Gulag archipelago.

As a result you will rarely see builders shopping at Homebase. They know they can get their fixings cheaper at Wickes, or at the local builder's merchant where they qualify for a trade discount and a chat with Bob and Fred while they queue. Instead the store is full of hopeless amateurs like you and me wanting to bring that extra something to the living room for the drinks party next week.

These shoppers are also remarkably loyal. They should be, since they are being bribed to come back. The Homebase Spend and Save card is a scheme in which the company gives out gift tokens for every £100 spent in its stores. The reward starts with £4 for the first £100 but becomes more generous the higher you go, so that hopeless DIY addicts are almost showered with vouchers. The card has an astonishing 2.5 million users — more than many banks can claim use their credit cards.

Mr Adriano estimates it will take Homebase two years to convert the Texas stores it has bought. In the process however it will be breaking new ground. Until now, most Homebases have been sited in the genteel areas of south-eastern England, where the archetypal executive couple can take their 2.4 children to choose a wallpaper that will match the upholstery.

Texas, by contrast, is a national chain and many of its stores are located in altogether rougher areas where Laura Ashley is likely to be beyond the pockets of most inhabitants. Mr Adriano is undeterred says Clive Hughes, a retail consultant at Verdict. Mr Adriano says that Homebase will adapt its range to suit the local area. Many of the worst-performing Texas stores will be closed down, however, or even sold and, perhaps, converted into bingo halls, which is one of the current trends. A case of calling house rather than doing up the house, perhaps?

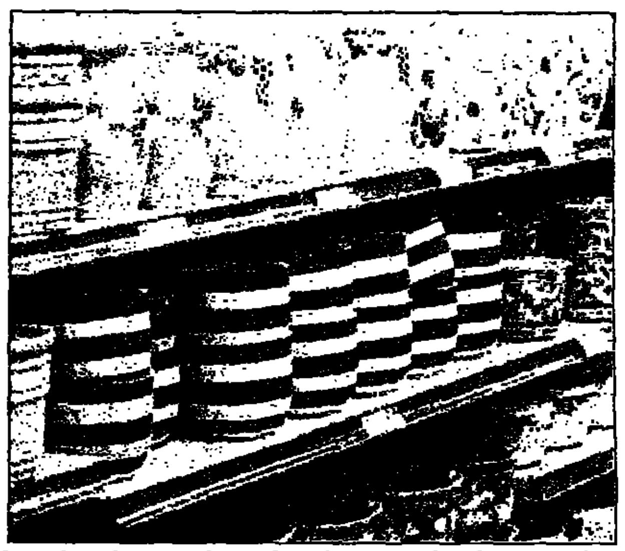
If Homebase can adapt, it has a promising future. "I believe DIY is classless," Clive Hughes says. As paid labour becomes more and more of a luxury, the rest of us are forced to rely on ingenuity and technology to maintain our houses.

DIY is even adapting itself to suit different pockets. While some people make do with own-brand paint and cheap wallpaper, Homebase is ready to cater for the most bottomless pocket or the most hopeless tool collector. I, for example, have grown to love my tools, although I hate using them. Right now I have my eye on an electric planer, and am looking for a job round the house to use as an excuse to buy it. Naturally, I would then find equally good excuses to delay the job for at least six months.

But what of Mr Adriano, Mr DIY himself? As head of Homebase he must long to step into his overalls on Saturday morning and rebuild the dining room wall. Er, well no actually. "I don't have the time these days," he says. "I have done a lot of decorating but I have never built an extension or anything."

The message to the rest of us, the silent thousands who want to escape from DIY hell, is clear. Be successful. Be rich. Or buy a house that doesn't need it.

Cover and all photographs by CHRIS HARRIS



Dino Adriano, the company chairman, claims that Homebase is "a shopping experience" based on more than just necessity

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Tuesday 31 Jan 7.30 pm	SANFORD SYLVAN baritone DAVID BREITMAN piano. Fauré: 3 Mélodies; L'horizon chimérique; Schumann: Liederkreis; Ravel: Don Quichotte à Dulcinée; Brahms: 5 German Folksongs; Selections from *The Aids Quilt Songbook* £12, £10, £8, £6	Song Recital Series Hazard Chase/Aaron Concert Mgt Inc
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Thursday 2 Feb 7.30 pm	EMMA JOHNSON clarinet, BORIS BEREZOVSKY piano Weber: Grand Duo concertant Brahms: Sonata in F minor Op.120 No.1 Prokofiev: Sonata in D Op.94 £14, £12, £9, £6	Lies Askonas Ltd
Friday 3 Feb 7.30 pm	WILLIAM FONG piano Beethoven: 32 Variations in C minor; Mozart: Sonata in B flat K333 Chopin: Sonata in B flat minor Op.35, Polonaise-Fantaisie Op 61 Busoni: Sonatina No 6 *super Carmen*; Ravel: Gaspard de la nuit £10, £8, £6, £6 (concs)	Kirckman Concert Soc/S Gordon Conc Mgt
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Tue 31 Jan 7.30	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Yuri Temirkanov (cond) Eliso Virsaladze (piano) Britten Four Sea Interludes; Prokofiev Piano Concerto No.3; Shostakovich Symphony No.5. £15, £12, £9, £7, £5 *RPO Ltd
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Fri 3 Feb 7.30	THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Resident at the RFH. Leon Gee (cond) Artur Pizarro (piano) Mendelssohn Overture, Ruy Blas; Grieg Piano Concerto; Rachmaninov Symphony No.2. £10, £5 *Lon Phil

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Sun 29 Jan 3.00	THE 1995 MOZART BIRTHDAY CONCERT Britten Quartet. Norbert Blume, Leon McCawley. Mozart String Quartet, K.575; Piano Quartet, K.493; Piano Sonata, K.282; String Quintet, K.515 £20, £15, £12, £10, £6 Marketing and the Arts
Mon 30 Jan 7.45	JOSEPH & MICHAEL HAYDN Milton Keynes City Orchestra, The Camden Choir, Julian Williamson (cond) M.Haydn Te Deum in C (1760); J.Haydn Missa Sanctae Caeciliae No.3 in C, Hob.XXII/5 (to end of Gloria). £15, £12.50, £11, £10, £8 *Camden Choir
Tue 31 Jan 7.45	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Jiri Belohlávek (cond) Ivan Moravec (piano) Dvorák Wind Serenade, Op.44; Mozart Piano Concerto in A, K488; Suk Serenade for Strings. £10 (unreserved) *BBC Radio 3 FM*

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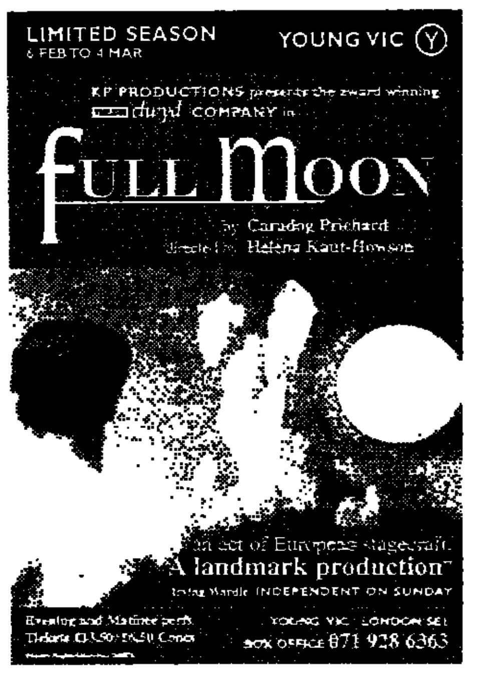

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BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No.4
TIPPETT Symphony No.3
Stephen Kovacevich piano,
Faye Robinson soprano

Sunday 19 February 7.30pm
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Gerhard Oppitz piano

Thursday 23 February 7.30pm
STRAVINSKY Violin Concerto
SIBELIUS Symphony No.7; TIPPETT Symphony No.4
Midori violin

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7	Southport	Southport Theatre	0704 540404
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ANASTASIA HILLE
EDWARD ALBEE'S
THREE TALL WOMEN
Directed by ANTHONY PAGE
Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
LIMITED SEASON TO 18 MAR '95

هكذا من الاطلاع

Warning note to chill the Coliseum

Masquerading under the deceptively genteel title of *Lyric Theatre Review*, the report into London's opera and ballet life, commissioned by the Arts Council and published yesterday, is a truly lethal text. Lethal for *whom? Well, for English* National Opera, if I read it correctly.

First, the report's authors, led by Denis Stevenson, serenade ENO's rival, the Royal Opera House, with a rousing chorus of "well done chaps, keep up the good work". Indeed, I doff my hat to Covent Garden's PR gurus for sweet-talking Stevenson's team so successfully. The following sentence could have come straight from a Royal Opera *or* Ballet *programme*: "The companies' claim to artistic excellence, the concept of a flagship company and the need for national centres of international *reputation* together argue overwhelmingly against any suggestion of dismantling the ROH."

Argue *overwhelmingly*? I, for one, am not overwhelmed. The Royal Ballet has been the poor relation at Covent Garden for decades, and would prosper much better as a separate entity. As for the "concept of a flagship company", well, if keeping this flagship afloat requires taxpayers and audiences to bankroll ever more extortionate demands by modestly-endowed opera singers, then *fire the torpedoes now*.

However, the Stevenson team clearly take a more benign view of singers' fees than I do, since there is no mention of this fundamental *issue* anywhere in their report. Instead, they order "full steam ahead" for the flagship's £150 million refit (currently awaiting a £50 million handout of National Lottery money). And they also want Sadler's Wells's redevelopment to go ahead quickly, seeing the Islington theatre as a future "dance house" for the capital.

Indeed, they see a redeveloped Sadler's Wells as the best alternative venue for the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet while Covent Garden is being redeveloped. And what's *more, they "strongly recommend"* that the Royal Opera House gets *another* £20 million handout from the lottery, to cover its estimated "aggregate shortfall" — whatever *that is — during its Sadler's Wells* exile. Gosh. You can see now why I *doff* my hat to Covent Garden's PR operation.

RICHARD MORRISON

The contrast with the report's treatment of ENO is startling. The Coliseum, Stevenson says, should *not* proceed with its redevelopment plans — or at least, not this century. Rubbing salt into the wound, he then talks *of "the need for ENO to get its* finances into a more stable state".

Worse follows. The company is slammed for charging English National Ballet a whopping £75,000 a week rental for the Coliseum during ENB's summer *season. "The Arts Council may* wish to consider whether this is wholly appropriate," says Stevenson, with delicate understatement.

Of course it isn't "wholly appropriate". It is madness. The Coliseum is, as Stevenson notes, "the best theatre in London for large-*scale dance". But dance companies* cannot use it because ENO hits them for £75,000 a week. As Stevenson points out, with demand for ENO's own products less *than buoyant, logic suggests that it* should play *fewer* weeks, and make the Coliseum available to dance companies more often.

But logic suggests other options to *Stevenson* as well, none designed to thrill the stalwarts in St Martin's Lane. ENO could be "permanently relocated", or work most of the year in a smaller *theatre* with a reduced chorus and orchestra. "We feel this is a viable *option," the report* says.

Or, Stevenson muses, ENO could strike up a "synergy" at the Coliseum with English National Ballet. Crazy jargon, crazy notion. Finally, Stevenson contemplates wholesale merger between ENO and the Royal Opera .... but *quickly backs away from such a* heretical way of giving London a properly funded international opera company. Which is a pity.

So, *ladies* and gentlemen, there you have it. *Stevenson* may have been a bit soft on Covent Garden, but he has laid out the tangled options for opera and dance in London clearly enough. Do we want one opera company, or two? In an age of surtitles, do we need opera sung in English? Should dance companies have access to the best dance theatres?

Does it make sense to have both *Covent Garden and the Coliseum* closed for redevelopment simultaneously, as is currently proposed? Could one of London's homeless and destitute symphony orchestras be redeployed to the opera *house or dance theatre? And where* does the South Bank Centre's vision of building *another* lyric theatre fit in, if at all?

What's needed now is a dictator with the wisdom of Solomon, the iron will of Margaret Thatcher, the *cultural breadth of George Steiner* and the selfless impartiality of Abraham Lincoln to sort out the mess, make the hard decisions, and force all those with territory to defend (that is, practically everybody in the opera and dance world) to toe the line.

Well, we have Lord Gowrie. He must now rouse the Arts Council into rare decisiveness. The lottery money is rolling in. The "redevelopers" are revving up the cement-mixers, and every professional singer, dancer and orchestral musician in London is impatiently marking time. This is a unique *opportunity to shape London's* cultural life. If it is botched or fudged, the opera and ballet lovers of the 21st century will curse us.

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** enjoys a new *Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Olivier Theatre

Agreeably warm for Windsor

Terry Hands, making an overdue debut at the National with what's undeniably a delightful *Merry Wives*, describes the play in the programme as Shakespeare's "*warmest and richest* comedy", on the face of it a pretty perverse judgement. Warmer than *Twelfth Night* or *The Winter's Tale*? Richer than *Measure for Measure*, with its anguishings about power, sex, *death, justice and Christian* mercy?

Myself, I have always tended to see the play as a sort of jokey Tudor sitcom. After all, how did it come about? According to tradition, the Queen *herself saw the pilot* programmes, *Henry IV Parts One* and *Two*, and was so taken with Falstaff that she asked for a follow-up in which the fat knight would be shown in love. It was a request that carried the weight of a demand for another series of *Yes, Prime Minister* from the Downing Street of the 1980s. Onto the Elizabethan equivalent of our TV screens came *The Merry Wives*, with its *unending pranks, gullings*, and jocular revenges.

Still, Hands's production (sponsor: Digital Equipment) goes about as far as it could towards making his point for him. I am not at all sure he *proves that The Merry Wives* is an *Othello* that ends with the Moor and Desdemona joyously in one another's arms, as seems to be his intention. On the other hand, he is clearly right to see it as a *more direct and complete* portrait of English society than the comedies that disguise their characters as Sicilians, Venetians or Illyrians.

Look at the cast-list. *It* includes a young courtier, a dissolute and decrepit nobleman with a trio of London *cutpurses in tow, a country* magistrate with dreams of being a buck, a French doctor, a Welsh parson, a busybodying publican, a number of solid burghers from the rising merchant classes, even a village *idiot* called Peter *Simple* who, in Hands's production, gawps and gapes with traditional gormlessness.

This is not Windsor circa 1400, as Falstaff's presence indicates it strictly should be, but the Windsor that Shakespeare might have visited had *he taken a detour on his way* from Stratford to the smoke. Timothy O'Brien, the designer, drops gables and Tudor chimneys among the autumn trees when he wants to move the action indoors. Hands brings on tiny crocodiles of children playing conkers or leapfrog, market-women selling cabbages and apples, a knifegrinder with apparatus large enough to sharpen the axe that was to chop off Raleigh's head. There is, as there should be, lots of realistic detail to add conviction to the tale of the fat knight and his elusive mistresses.

Denis Quilley's Falstaff is an exuberant, expansive gentleman-buccaneer, with fur on his gown, feathers raffishly protruding from his cap and little to suggest decay except an outrageous paunch. For the women he hopes to seduce, he is at first a not-impressive figure. *Geraldine Fitzgerald's* Mistress Ford may wiggle satirically about and affect a suburban simper when she is duping him, but she is flattered to receive a love-letter from him and a mite disappointed when it turns out to be a kind of amorous circular. There, *elsewhere, Hands's* production is sensitive to the social implications, the snobbery and social-climbing, to be found in the play.

Both Fitzgerald and Maureen Beattie's equally fine *Mistress Page radiate the* confidence of the new bourgeoisie.

DONALD COOPER

Forest frolics: Denis Quilley (Falstaff) and Maureen Beattie (Mistress Page) in Terry Hands's new *Merry Wives*

So does Richard Moore, a robust, energetic Page. Richard McCabe's Ford is *more* complex, as befits someone doomed to play a husband unaware that his wife is a trickster, not a whore. He *wears puritan clothes*, keeps his arms folded, and frowns and scowls a lot. That severity makes his deterioration into a frantic, rushing paranoid who has madly permed his hair into spoof cuckold's horns all *the more hilarious. So it does* when, hearing Falstaff describe his adventures, he battles to prevent his mouth contorting into a crazed rictus, or, later, ransacks his wife's laundry for a fat knight he *dementedly assumes to have* shrunk to the size of a sock.

But perhaps we are to see his jealousy as not altogether hilarious. Why else would Hands give Mistress Ford a handkerchief embroidered *with tiny strawberries, and* have her tenderly wipe her husband's face, blackened by searching for Falstaff up the chimney? If he pushed the parallels with *Othello* further they would be absurd; but as it *is they come across as an* affectionate if pointed joke cut into what has rapidly become a happy ending for everybody involved.

The *Fords* are reconciled. So are the Pages, who have lost their daughter to a husband neither wanted. So are they all with a Falstaff who has been lured into Windsor Great Park with antlers on his head and, very *nearly*, become *the* sacrifical victim of Halloween revelry. On the stage the feeling is good, and so it is in the auditorium. Whether or not the *Merry Wives* is the warmest of Shakespeare's comedies, *this is the warmest* of *Merry Wives*.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

STEPHEN BRIMSON LEWIS

Profession: Designer

Age: 31

Where is he from? Hertfordshire, from which he would travel to the West End as a boy to see extravaganzas such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*. "I was fascinated by how everything worked together, " he says of those musicals, "although I discovered the word 'design' quite late on."

Best known for? His collaboration *with* director Sean Mathias, the results of which will be on view seemingly everywhere this year. On February 15, their Donmar Warehouse production of Noel Coward's *Design For Living* transfers to the Gielgud Theatre for a commercial run. *Marcus D'Amico and Rupert Graves head the cast. In* April, they make their Broadway debut with *Les Parents Terribles* (retitled — for the moment anyway — *Parents From Hell*), starring Kathleen Turner and Eileen Atkins. In the summer they return to the National to do Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* with Judi Dench at the Olivier. Somewhere amid all this they are finding time to *make a film of Martin Sherman's play, Bent*. "*For me, the* collaboration is all," says Brimson Lewis. "As a designer, you're never just a one-man band."

Any trademarks? A heightened theatricality. Also — in *Les Parents* and *Design For Living*, at any rate — a gauze scrim to start the play, followed by floor-to-ceiling staircases. "It *sounds extraordinary, but they're in the two scripts," he says* of the staircases, which in *Les Parents* looked positively vertiginous.

Is this "designer theatre"? That is not a phrase of which he is overly fond. "*As soon as you start getting a label for yourself*, it divorces you from your work, although inevitably you develop an aesthetic that carries through. There's always the dichotomy of trying to make a world somehow believable while giving it a dynamic that lifts the drama out of deadening naturalism — a tree on stage can never be a tree: it is always a piece of scenery."

Not all his work is as showy as *Les Parents*. For his recent Cottesloe Theatre *Uncle Vanya*, directed by Mathias, Brimson Lewis's set was basically "one chair in a bare room. I had £5,000 to spend and possibly the best cast you could have: Antony Sher, Ian McKellen and Lesley Sharp among them. My job was to serve that in a simple and direct way — *to give a journey through the play from the exterior world in* Act 1 through to the studio in Act IV when Vanya is hiding under his bed."

What has he done away from theatre? Opera in Vienna (*Otello*) and Sydney (*Turn of the Screw*), with further opera work planned in Australia and Monte Carlo in 1996. He also *designed the costumes for an Anglo-American mini-series, The Nightmare Years*, with Sam Waterston, that took place during the Second World War. But the live theatre, he says, "is my first love".

MATT WOLF

CONCERT: Gergiev on holy ground

Warm, whispered confidence

RPO/Gergiev
Festival Hall

BEFORE a note of Wagner had sounded in the latest concert spectacular of Valery Gergiev's Royal Philharmonic Maryinsky-Kirov series, the conductor addressed the audience to remind us that the composer had visited St Petersburg in 1863 to conduct the world concert premiere of the "Liebestod" from *Tristan und Isolde* and the overture to *The Flying Dutchman*. And he gave notice of what sounded like a firm intention, if not exactly a promise, to reinstate Wagner before too long into the repertoire of the Maryinsky Theatre.

Gergiev certainly conducts Wagner as if it is something he does not do every day. For him, it is still holy ground. With those fluttering fingertips and batonless hands, he acts as *animateur* to a sound project whose every second excites and challenges him. In both the commemorative *Dutchman* overture, and in that to *Tannhäuser*, he re-examined not only the quality of texture against texture but the nature of tempo against tempo, too. Climaxes were built with restraint and minute *attention* to detail, cadences cleansed of cliché.

In his opening remarks, Gergiev also apologised for the absence of his Kirov colleague, the soprano Galina Gorchakova, who was apparently ill in St Petersburg. However, nobody could have been *disappointed* by the last-minute substitution of Anne Evans. Responding warmly to the lean intensity of Gergiev's *Tristan* Prelude, with its taut, woodwind-brightened sequences of dissonance and resolution, she gave a performance of exceptional eloquence. It *seemed so deceptively* lightly breathed, so warmly aspirated that its resilience and strength crept up all but imperceptibly.

Gergiev: challenged

This same gentle, potent garnering of resources and fine-tuning to every subconscious memory within the orchestra fired her Immolation Scene from *Götterdämmerung*. With Gergiev clearly thrilled to be holding Grane's reins, *Britain's* favourite Brünnhilde gave her final "Heiayoho!" and left us eager to know where Gergiev and Wagner will go next.

HILARY FINCH

CINEMA: Rome pays extravagant tribute to the life of Federico Fellini

Relics of a dolce vita

LAST week, on what would have been Federico Fellini's seventy-fifth birthday, Rome paid homage to Rimini's most famous son with the opening of a monumental exhibition, so large that it has to be divided between the Palazzo della Civiltà and the Salone delle Fontane. The classico-fascist facade of the palazzo has been transformed by the *scene-builders of Cinecittà* into a replica of the great liner *Rex*, which figures in *Amarcord*, Fellini's dream-like reminiscence of his boyhood Rimini. *Inside* you are instantly confronted by Fellini's megaphone and director's chair and the famous hat and red scarf.

The next long hall presents a vertiginous black incline on *which, apparently floating in* air, are the extravagant haute-couture vestments of the bishops from *Roma*, interspersed with great sinister female heads from *La Città delle Donne* (*City of Women*) and a *model of the liner from And the Ship Sails On*.

After that, Fellini's life and career are recalled in a mosaic of colourful detritus — photographs, drawings, cuttings, cartoons, costumes, posters, press-books, props — including a kinky whip from *Le Notti di Cabiria* (*Night of Cabiria*), a mask from *Fellini — Satyricon*, the giant "Thinker" statue from *The Voice of the Moon*.

What is surprising is that such a mass of memorabilia survives from the life of a man notorious for throwing things away. *Fortunately, it seems* there was generally a university library, publisher, collector or friend waiting to intercept the refuse.

However, the heart of the exhibition is the evidence of Fellini's lifelong compulsion to draw cartoons. A series of 27 ferocious caricatures of film *stars of the 1930s was made* when he was only 17, to decorate the Fulgor Cinema in Rimini, where he first succumbed to the movies.

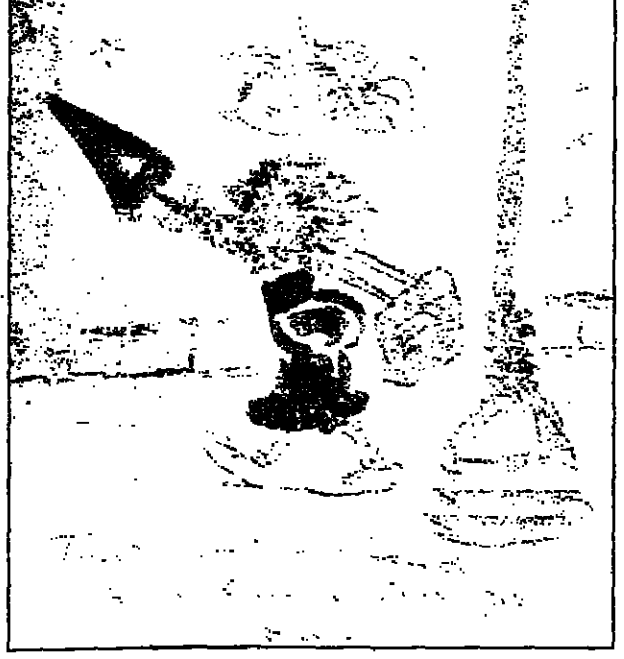
The major revelation of the exhibition is that Fellini's cartoon work was not merely a *brief episode in his career but* remained fundamental to his vision. For every film he made drawings of his characters and scenes, because, he ex*plained, "it's a way of beginning* to look the film in the face". The drawings are bright and bawdy, in crayon and acrylic.

In the 1960s, at the request of a Jungian analyst, Fellini began to keep his dream books, diligently drawing and annotating his dreams. He said that in his childhood he believed he had two lives: one *sleeping and one waking. He* kept the dream books for 20 years and regarded the insomnia of his last years as a tragedy — "oneiric castration".

The dream images are comic and sometimes terrifying: breakfast tables on the railway track, traffic going the wrong way on motorways, people flying out of skyscraper windows, firing squads; and, *always, everywhere, the* unmistakable Fellini women with globular excesses in every direction.

The second part of the *exhibition, in the Salone* delle Fontane, is devoted to the films and reveals the integrity of his work, the inseparability of drawings and dreams and films, an autobiography of the imagination.

The vastness of the exhibition brings home what an extraordinary, individual, irreplaceable vision it was that gave us *La Strada, La Dolce Vita* and *Amarcord* — often strident, vulgar, naive, ostentatious, yet gigantic, singular, Fellinian. Not many artists leave their own instantly evocative adjective.



Working girl: drawing by Fellini for *Le Notti di Cabiria*

DAVID ROBINSON

● *The exhibition* "Federico Fellini" *is at the Palazzo della Civiltà and the Salone delle Fontane, Rome, until March 26. It then moves to Berlin (Babelsberg Studios and Potsdam Film Museum. April 12-June 25).*

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Has opera gone mad?
Opera is becoming schizoid, split between expensive megastars and weird radicalism . . . The wackier end of the directors' opera spectrum, the *succès de scandale* or simply the scandals, has tended to have a short shelf life. One only needs to think of the David Alden productions for ENO — the Masked Ball with a wonky bedstead — or the notorious Sellars *Magic Flute at Glyndebourne which brought* booing back to that hallowed hall for the first time since the 1960s . . .
Hugh Canning on the deepening crisis in opera — The Culture, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**: The Fats Waller musical show: an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance
Tricycle, Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

◩ **AS YOU LIKE IT**: Cheek by Jowl's all-male Shakespeare, spare, inventive, endearingly funny, with Adrian Lester a ravishing Rosalind. Declan Donnellan directs.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Feb 11

◩ **CINDERELLA**: Lindsay Kemp's fascinating reworking of the tale, subtitled "A Gothic Operetta" and set *in a jungle palace choking on its own* decadence. Superb music by Carlos Miranda.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-713 6000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Feb 4, 4pm. Until Feb 4 Ⓢ

☐ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE**: Nigel Hawthorne plays the dilapidated Lord Ogleby and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm

◩ **THE COURT JESTER**: Villainous John of Gaunt plots for the crown but is foiled by an energetic jester. Quite jolly, and lively performances.
Warehouse, Dingwall Rd, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Tonight, 8pm; Sun, 5pm. *Final week.*

☐ **DANGEROUS CORNER**: Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe into.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-867 1119). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed 3pm and Sat 5pm, until Mar 11.

◩ **FEVER PITCH**: The one-man show adapted from Nick Hornby's best-selling account of a lifelong obsession — some would say inexplicable — with Arsenal FC. Stephen North takes us through 45 minutes each way.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6.15 (available), 8.30pm (sold out).

■ **KILLER JOE**: Utterly absorbing shock-drama by Tracy Letts where a trash trailer family virtually annihilates itself by employing a hit-man to kill their unwanted Mom. Wilson Milam directs the original Chicago production that won a Fringe First at Edinburgh.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Feb 11

☐ **MAMA I WANT TO SING**: The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Doris Troy (who here plays her own mother). Cast includes the charismatic Chaka Khan.
Cambridge, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080). Now previewing, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 1.

■ **THE MAN OF MODE**: Etherege's wittiest comedy: sex, style and even some true love. David Westhead as Dorimant, Tim Potter as Sir Fopling Flutter. Max Stafford-Clark directs. In repertoire with *The Libertine*.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Today, 3.30pm; Mon, 7.30pm

◩ **SUZANNA ANDLER**: Susan Hampshire plays the enigmatic heroine in Marguerite Duras's lyrical drama of late love. Lisa Forrell directs the author's recently revived text.
BAC 1, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 5.30pm. Until Feb 26 Ⓢ

◩ **A TALE OF TWO CITIES**: Alexis Denisof plays Darnay and Timothy Walker is Sydney Carton in Matthew Francis's version of the Dickens epic. Self-sacrifice, the guillotine and lots of knitting.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sats, 2.30pm. Until Feb 4 Ⓢ

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA**: Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive revival of Kurt Weill's opera. Tom Hollander sings Macheath and words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht".
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE VENETIAN TWINS**: Michael Bogdanov's knockabout production loses some of Goldoni's comedy. David Troughton plays both twins; Ranjit Bolt translates.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm Ⓢ

☐ **TWO WEEKS WITH THE QUEEN**: Play for family audiences adapted from Morris Gleitzman's excellent story of a 12-year-old boy who learns about death and the value of family love. Ayckbourn's staging gives it a touch of caricature but the compassion comes across.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm Ⓢ

◩ **THE YIDDISH TROJAN WOMEN**: Maria Charles plays the forgetful, memory-full grandmother in a strong Brooklyn drama, now comic, now tragic, about looking away from bad things. Hettie MacDonald directs.
Cockpit, Gateforth St, NW8 (0171-402 5081). Tue-Sun, 8pm; mat Sun, 4pm. Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . ■ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . ■ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . ■ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) . . ■ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . ◩ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . ◩ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) . ◩ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (0171-494 5045) . ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ☐ **Hamlet**: Gielgud (0171-494 5065) . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . ■ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) . . ◩ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ■ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (0171-839 4488) ☐ **Neville's Island**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) . ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . ☐ **On Approval**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) . ☐ **Once on This Island**: Island (Royalty), final week (0171-494 5090) . ☐ **Only the Lonely**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) . ◩ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (0171-369 1731) ◩ **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**: Strand, final week (0171-930 8800) . . ◩ **The Queen and I**: Vaudeville, until Feb 4 (0171-836 9987) . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) . ◩ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic, until Feb 25 (0171-928 7616) . ■ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . ■ **Three Tall Women**: Wyndhams (0171-369 1736) . . ◩ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

BARCELONA (12): See Critics' Choice, page 2.

◆ **ONLY YOU** (PG): Marisa Tomei chases the man of her dreams through Italy. Lazy blend of comedy, romance and travelogue, with Robert Downey Jr. Director, Norman Jewison.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

SILENT TONGUE (12): Loquacious folly about troubled lives out west, from writer-director Sam Shepard. With Richard Harris, Alan Bates and River Phoenix.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

SUTURE: Hypnotic melodrama with avant-garde trimmings from new American film-makers Scott McGehee and David Siegel.
Everyman Ⓢ (0171-435 1525) **ICA** Ⓢ (0171-930 3647)

CURRENT

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT (15): Two drag queens and a transsexual get stuck in the Australian outback. Joyful and vulgar romp with Terence Stamp and Hugo Weaving.
Gate, Sun only Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

AMATEUR (15): Amnesiac pornographer faces his past with a former nun's help. Quirky, touching, pseudo-thriller from Hal Hartley, with Martin Donovan and Isabelle Huppert.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES (15): Unwieldy version of Tom Robbins's zany novel from cult director Gus Van Sant. Uma Thurman heads a cameo-strewn cast.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL (15): Mike Newell's smart social comedy with Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell.
Odeon Mezzanine Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **Prince Charles**, today only (0171-437 8181)

◆ **INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18): Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JUNIOR** (PG): Juvenile jokes abound as Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pregnant. With Emma Thompson and Danny DeVito. Director, Ivan Reitman.
Empire (0800-888 911) **MGMs: Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **KILLING ZOE** (18): Callous and showy bank robbery tale, written and directed by Roger Avary.
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE MASK (PG): Strange mask turns mild bank employee into a wisecracking demon. Inventive vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, filled with the antic spirit of 1940s cartoons.
Odeon Mezzanine Ⓢ (01426 915683)

◆ **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS** (PG): The King of Hallowe'en tries to take over Christmas. Technically brilliant puppet fantasy conceived by Tim Burton.
Odeons: Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) **Prince Charles** (0171-437 8181)

NOSTRADAMUS (15): Life and prophecies of the 16th-century legend. Preposterous Euro-pudding, with Tcheky Karyo and Amanda Plummer.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **PRINCESS CARABOO** (PG): Airy, amusing historical diversion, with Phoebe Cates as the mysterious girl believed to be a Far Eastern princess. With Jim Broadbent, John Lithgow, Stephen Rea, Wendy Hughes. Director, Michael Austin.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

SPEED (15): Enjoyable package of thrills, with Keanu Reeves as the SWAT team daredevil faced with a bomb on an LA bus. With Sandra Bullock and Dennis Hopper.
Odeon Mezzanine Ⓢ (01426 915683)

◆ **PULP FICTION** (18): Quentin Tarantino's flamboyant crime epic weaves together three tales from the LA underworld. With John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **NFT** Ⓢ (0171-928 3232) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

LA REINE MARGOT (18): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Director, Patrice Chéreau.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **SHALLOW GRAVE** (18): Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE SPECIALIST** (15): Sharon Stone hires explosives expert Sylvester Stallone to avenge her parents' murder. Empty concoction that wastes its stars. With James Woods, Eric Roberts, Rod Steiger. Director, Luis Llosa.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STARGATE** (PG): Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun, with Jaye Davidson. Director, Roland Emmerich.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

THREE COLOURS: RED (15): Kieślowski's compelling film about criss-crossing lives, a majestic climax to his trilogy. With Irène Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant.
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Minema** (0171-235 4225)

THE TIN DRUM (18): Volker Schlöndorff's 1979 adaptation of the Günter Grass novel has lost none of its power. With David Bennent as the stunted boy in Hitler's Europe.
Everyman (0171-435 1525) **NFT** (0171-928 3232)

◆ **WES CRAVEN'S NEW NIGHTMARE** (15): Inventive riff on the "Elm Street" movies from the original's creator, director Wes Craven. With Robert Englund, Heather Langenkamp.
Odeon Mezzanine Ⓢ (01426 915683) **West End** (01426-915 574)

NEW ON VIDEO: Gibson garners a gambler's role; De Sica works his miracle

Jodie Foster and Mel Gibson star in the big-screen version of *Maverick*, now returning on video to the small screen

■ **MAVERICK**
Warner, PG, 1994
MEL Gibson has a nicer chest, but he cannot match James Garner's roguish twinkle in the role of gambler Bret Maverick, popular hero of the old television series. Richard Donner's big-screen revival scrapes by with a lazy assemblage of comedy, action and echoes of past romps such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. Jodie Foster proves a good sparring partner, and Garner himself is on hand to show Gibson the proper way to deliver ironic remarks. Available to rent.

■ **LE CRI DU HIBOU**
Lighthouse, 18, 1987
CLAUDE Chabrol adapting Patricia Highsmith sounds like a potent combination, though this darkly photographed thriller about a morbid young woman, her unbalanced lover and the fiancé who is dumped and seemingly killed never quite catches fire. Mathilda May's vixenish presence gives a special chill to the early scenes; the later part strains credulity. Never released theatrically in Britain.

■ **EQUINOX**
Tartan, 15, 1992
ALAN Rudolph's intoxicating tale of lost souls in a crumbling metropolis overflows with visual magic. Matthew Modine appears as two long-lost twins (one of life's discards, and a small-time hood), with Lara Flynn Boyle as the withdrawn object of a hesitant romance. Rudolph's gliding camera leads them through cryptic encounters, bizarre, poignant and comic by turns. Even if we never know where the film is headed, our hearts our touched, our minds engaged, and our eyes dazzled.

■ **IDENTIFICATION OF A WOMAN**
Connoisseur, 18, 1982
ANTONIONI'S last completed feature recalls a time when art movies offered intellectual rigour as well as pretty pictures. Tomas Milian's leading character is a film director, who searches for inspiration from girlfriend to girlfriend and is racked by the usual Antonioni troubles of social and spiritual unease. Beautifully shot: characters are usually observed through doors, mirrors, windows, tightly-coiled staircases, or, in the extraordinary central sequence, dense fog. Highly stimulating, though not a film you want to cuddle up to.

■ **MR JONES**
20:20 Vision, 18, 1994
MEET manic depressive Richard Gere. On manic days he grins a lot and tries to fly. On depressive days, he resembles the walking dead. Either way, he catches the eye of doctor Lena Olin, whose performance is the best reason for persevering. Mike Figgis's direction has its moments, but the facile script severely limits the film's success.

■ **THE RETURN OF JAFAR**
Disney, U, 1994
A CUT-PRICE, hour-long animated sequel to *Aladdin*, made for television. Most of the original voices and characters are back, though the Genie, unfortunately, is not Robin Williams. Thirteen writers created a script that allows for a battery of simple gags and four new songs (sample title, "There's Nothing in the World Quite Like a Friend"), but dispenses with finesse and careful pacing.

■ **MIRACLE IN MILAN**
Art House, U, 1951
VITTORIO De Sica's engaging film works its own kind of miracle by walking a tightrope between whimsical fantasy, realistic observation, sentiment and satire, without ever falling off. The hero is a sweet-natured orphan who falls in with shanty town dwellers and helps them stave off predatory developers who want the land and its hidden oil. Written by Cesare Zavattini, the film seems fresher today than the solemnities of *Bicycle Thieves*.

GEOFF BROWN

Quad finds the missing link

With Quadlink on its new 77 amplifier, Quad has leapfrogged the trendier hi-fi makers

FUTURE VISIONS

For all the futuristic image the hi-fi industry likes to present, genuinely new ways of doing things are quite rare. The more compatible everybody's equipment becomes, the more the scope for original thinking is limited. Too often it turns up either as refinements of refinements, to be discarded in favour of next year's version, or as extravagant gimmickry which rarely justifies its price. Ingenious rare-alloy loudspeaker cables costing almost £1,000 a metre may well make systems sound better than simpler cables at £1 — but nothing like a thousandfold. The knack is to innovate rarely but meaningfully, and make it last — a difficult balance that few companies achieve, and that still fewer achieve repeatedly and consistently.

One that has is the British company Quad. Over four decades it has produced only a handful of amplifier designs and two models of its classic electrostatic loudspeakers; but the blend of innovative design and solid engineering kept them popular year after year while others came and went. Quad equipment has never been cheap, but not unduly expensive either; and since one is liable to keep it longer, and it retains its resale value (Quad still maintains its older models), it often works out cheaper in the long run.

It has not escaped setbacks: in recent years its conservative emphasis on scientific accuracy over subjective impressions has earned it the scorn of trendier hi-fi journalists, and its first CD player, decent but run-of-the-mill, did little to dispel this. With the launch of the new 77 amplifier, though, it seems that Quad is once again doing the unexpected, and doing it very well.

Until now Quads, like most high-quality amplifiers, have been produced as separate pre-amplifiers, with inputs and controls, and power amplifiers, which boost the signal. The 77 is Quad's first integrated amplifier, in a single case, and an exceptionally good one. Its design uses the Class B principle, unusual in high-quality equipment because the doubled transistors it demands tend to increase distortion. With characteristic ingenuity, Quad has avoided this while preserving Class B's advantages, especially its cool running. The result sounds superb. Its 70-watts-per-channel power output (conservatively estimated) is ample for most domestic systems, and its low-profile grey-blue case is suave enough to suit the living-room. That, though, is not all.

At first sight, the 77 seems to have minimal controls and only three inputs, barely enough for a decent system. Until, that is, you notice the neat 15-pin socket alongside them. This is for the new Quadlink "data bus", a device which, as in a computer, controls and directs the flow of information, in this case the sound signals. Quadlink allows you to connect and control almost any number and any combination of other Quadlink-equipped devices — CD player, tuner and the like, but also equipment in other rooms, and more arcane devices such as satellite receivers. It will also power many of these, so you may need only a single mains lead.

When you turn on such a system, the Quadlink logic circuits send a "map" of it to the remote-control handset. This is about a generation advanced from the ordinary television button-box: it "talks" to the system, exchanging information in both directions. Its control buttons have no fixed tasks, therefore: the Quadlink monitors the system (at intervals, to save battery power) and assigns them functions, labelling them on a liquid-crystal screen between the buttons — tracks for a CD, radio stations for a tuner and so on. Consequently this one handset will control the entire system, however you change it or add to it, automatically revising and upgrading its controls.

Other models in the 77 range are due to follow soon, and if they are up to this standard, they will be highly recommendable. At £595 (with the handset an extra £295), it is reasonably priced for the quality it offers, and even the trendies seem to be welcoming it.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

May we suggest drama, comedy, dance and opera — with a romantic meal before or afterwards — for Valentine's Day?

A great time, with love

CASTING around for the perfect Valentine's Day celebration? Then add to the chocolates and flowers with a romantic dinner for two and a show. Theatres all around the country have put together very special Valentine's Day offers for Theatre Club members:

LEEDS
West Yorkshire Playhouse
● ENJOY a three-course à la carte meal, with a glass of wine and coffee, at the Wild Oats restaurant, before seeing Alan Bennett's parliamentary comedy *Getting On*, directed by Prunella Scales and starring Timothy West.

The special all-inclusive Valentine's Day package costs £25 per person, and also includes a complimentary programme and box of chocolates. We recommend that you are seated in the restaurant at least 90 minutes before the performance, which begins at 7.30pm. Tickets must be paid for at least three days before the performance on Feb 14. To book, telephone 0113-244 2111

LONDON
Savoy Theatre
● RUTHIE HENSHALL and John Gordon Sinclair star in *She Loves Me*, the story of two sales clerks who fall in love by correspondence, not knowing that they already work with each other. The ideal comedy for lovers, this Theatre Club offer carries the romance even further, being available not just on Valentine's Day, but Feb 15 and 16 as well. For an all-inclusive price of £35 per person, members can also enjoy a pre-theatre dinner at the world-famous Simpson's in the Strand restaurant. Telephone 0171-413 1412 to book

EDINBURGH
Royal Lyceum
● ALAN AYCKBOURN'S *Bedroom Farce* follows the nocturnal antics within the bedrooms of three couples after the hilarious events of Malcolm and Katie's party. The play traces the ups and downs of Trevor and Susannah's tempestuous marriage, climaxing in a joyous reunion.

For just £15 per person you can also enjoy a two-course pre or post-show meal, with coffee, at Phipps Restaurant. To book, telephone 0131-229 9697, stating whether you would like to eat before or after the show.

NORTHAMPTON
Derngate
● FROM the passionate and deeply moving *Crossing*, to the wit and tenderness of *Sergeant Early's Dream*, Rambert Dance Company guarantees a magical evening out for lovers of dance.

For an all-inclusive price of £17.50 you can also enjoy a post-show supper with a choice of three menus, including a vegetarian dish. To book, telephone 01604 24811

OXFORD
The Playhouse
● SUN, sea, sand, sex, sangria and Spain are the ingredients of the latest adult comedy from Hull Truck Theatre Company's production of *Passion Killers* written and directed by John Godber, the man behind the likes of *Bouncers* and *On the Piste*.

Before the show, enjoy a two-course supper, with a glass of champagne, at the popular Old Parsonage Hotel in Woodstock Road (five minutes' walk from the theatre), for an all-inclusive price of £24.50. To book, telephone 01865 798600

BASINGSTOKE
The Anvil
● TRAVELLING Opera presents Mozart's ever-popular *The Marriage of Figaro*. This English version brings the opera vividly alive in a fast-moving and very funny production.

For the all-inclusive price of £25 per person Club members can book the best seats in the house, as well as enjoying a special pre or post-show meal, with a complimentary bottle of champagne and drinks in the interval. To book, telephone 01256 844244

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

Mystery hits the road

● SARAH CASEY (Alexandra Gilbreath), a travel agent who has never been anywhere, meets the mysterious Elston Rupp (Kerry Shale) in a rundown New York bar. Who is Rupp? A successful lawyer — or a serial killer? Or both? Casey leaves with him and is never seen again. *Disappeared*, by Phyllis Nagy, writer of *Butterfly Kiss*, reconstructs the series of events that led to the meeting, and explores the impact Casey's disappearance has on those around her. See *Disappeared* on tour at:

Is Elston Rupp (Kerry Shale) a murderer? Find out in *Disappeared*, by Phyllis Nagy (right), now on tour

LEICESTER
Haymarket
Feb 2-25
● Tickets £5 (normally £9). Tel 0116-253 9797

CHELTENHAM
Everyman Theatre
Feb 27-Mar 4
● Tickets £4 (normally £6). Tel 01242 572573

COVENTRY
Warwick Arts Centre
Mar 6-7
● Tickets £4.75 (normally £6.75). Tel 01203 524524

IPSWICH
Wolsey Theatre
Mar 9-15
● Tickets £5.25 and £6 (normally £6.75 and £7.50). Tel 01473 253725

MANCHESTER
The Dancehouse
Mar 17-18
● Tickets £5 (normally £7). Tel 0161-237 9753–

CHIPPING NORTON
The Theatre
Mar 24-25
● Tickets £5 (normally £7). Tel 01608 642350

EDINBURGH
Traverse Theatre
Apr 2
● Tickets £4 (normally £8). Tel 0131-228 1404

SHEFFIELD
Crucible Theatre
Apr 3-8
● Tickets £5 (normally £10). Tel 0114-276 9922

GLASGOW
Tron Theatre
Apr 12-13
● Two tickets for the price of one (normally £6 and £7.50). Tel 0141-552 4267

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TO BOOK for any or all of this week's special offers, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive is the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. Membership of the Theatre Club costs £12.50 a year and entitles members to buy two tickets for any club offer. Every week, members can save money, meet the cast and directors of productions, or visit different theatres on exclusive weekend breaks.

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RECORDINGS: Horowitz's hidden legacy sees the light of day; Charlie Parker with strings; Simple Minds are out of time but on the ball

Vladimir Horowitz in Moscow in 1986. Now, at last, his private recordings of his Carnegie Hall recitals from 1945-50 have been released

Hilary Finch

■ HOROWITZ
The Private Collection:
Volume I
RCA 09026 62643 2★★★

BOOTY! For the first time, 13 recordings from Vladimir Horowitz's private collection from Carnegie Hall recitals given between 1945-50 have been made available from the Music Library at Yale, to which he entrusted them two years before his death. Remastered from old 78s, the first volume ranges from a springing Bach Toccata and Fugue in C minor to an extended drama of a Rachmaninov Etude-Tableau. In between come three Sonatas by Clementi, boiling with gleeful energy out of the substrata of coughs, crackles and pops, and delighting in the many-faceted beauty of their pianistic sound.

There is an all but sung *Song without Words* of Mendelssohn, two Liszt *Consolations*, a frisky Chopin Mazurka; as well as a remarkable and unpredictable performance of the F minor Fantaisie Op 49: it shows that for Horowitz, "so full of shapes is fancy that it alone is high fantastical". I cannot wait for the journey from Debussy to Barber in volume two.

☐ HASKIL: THE LEGACY
Volume 3: Solo repertoire
Philips 442 635-2★★★

CLARA Haskil, the Romanian pianist, died in 1960 after a career forged against all odds: inadequate tuition, serious physical illness and a voice which chose to confide rather than to proclaim. The centenary of her birth, and her intuitive, generous, often visionary musicianship are celebrated in a new digitalised compilation of the complete recordings she made for Philips between 1951 and 1960. I sampled the three-disc solo set out of a box containing multiple compilations of her solo, chamber (with Grumiaux) and concerto work (each set is available separately).

The Schumann is the wonder of these discs. The tiny pieces of the *Kinderszenen* and the *Waldszenen* are glimpsed as the cameos of a child's world, unfurling as if in time-lapse movement. Haskil is one of those rare artists who seems to be able to reinhabit the dreamlike consciousness of a child still undivided from the sentient world of plant and animal life. Luminous fingerwork, courageous spontaneity and the subtlest of dynamic nuances animate each passing moment of joy and pleading, play and dream.

The set also includes both the 1955 and the 1960 recordings of Beethoven's Sonatas Nos 17 and 18: "The Tempest" is played with dogged strength and potent near-silences; "The Hunt" with a bewitching quality of close self-listening. Haskil's Beethoven reveals much that is rich and strange to the listener ready to rearrange his or her preconceptions and expectations. The same goes for her Schubert. To measure her performance of the B flat Sonata (D960) unfavourably on the profundity scale with Brendel's and Richter's (as the sleeve notes do) is to miss the point. Those with ears willing to hear may well tune in to something far closer to the heart of Schubert's innermost sensibility.

Barry Millington

■ TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No 5
MUSSORGSKY
Songs and Dances of Death
Kotcherga/Berlin
Philharmonic Orchestra/
Abbado
Sony SK 66276★★★

CLAUDIO Abbado's new version of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, recorded live in the Berlin Philharmonie, has an unusual but extraordinarily effective coupling. Mussorgsky's dark but utterly unsentimental *Songs and Dances of Death*, sung with authentic Russian colour and passion by Anatoly Kotcherga, provide a far more effective curtain-raiser for the symphony than many a stock fill-up. And the connection is particularly relevant to Abbado's reading, which so often catches the characteristically Russian soulful poignancy that underlies this music. This is particularly noticeable in the mournful, expansive introduction to the slow movement, which conjures the spirit of those great epic operas *Boris Godunov* and *Khovanschchina* (which, of course, Abbado has conducted so successfully).

Abbado's reading is an unconventional one. After an aptly lugubrious opening, the first movement's main material is fleetly presented, nicely pointed, almost sprightly. Only gradually does it acquire the fervour and intensity one expects. The second subject material is beautifully crafted, but much pulled around, with big surges of dynamic within phrases or paragraphs. It is a high-risk strategy, for Tchaikovsky's structures can easily come apart at the seams. But so masterly is Abbado's control, and so forceful the articulation of the main theme as it sweeps through the movement (with lustrous sound from the Berlin Philharmonic) that the risk pays off.

Abbado: masterly control

The slow movement is eloquently done, erupting with alarming violence at the climaxes. The finale, like the whole performance, is held together with tightly disciplined rhetoric, leading to an immensely powerful coda.

Stephen Pettitt

■ BERG
Seven Early Songs/
Altenberg Songs, Op 4/
Youthful Songs
Norman/London Symphony
Orchestra/Boulez
Sony Classical SK 66 826★★★

THIS is a powerful record, often voluptuous, sometimes frighteningly intense. Jessye Norman's gorgeous voice wraps itself around Berg's ripe lines exquisitely. Yet she has the vital knack of gauging the music's ebbs and flows, wallowing just enough but never an ounce too much.

The disc begins with the Seven Early Songs, brief settings of lushly Romantic love poetry written while the composer was studying under Arnold Schoenberg. There is more Richard Strauss, Hugo Wolf, Brahms and Mahler in these works than there is of Schoenberg, though a song such as "Liebesode" comes close to a Schoenbergian expressive atonality.

Then come the more challenging five Altenberg Songs, settings of "picture postcard" texts dating from 1912 but from another aesthetic world, with the atonality of Schoenberg now thoroughly absorbed. Here the instrumental contributions, magnificently played by the London Symphony Orchestra under Pierre Boulez, provide much more than a framework. Voice and orchestra are as one in these precisely drawn, expressionistic songs. But still the basic premises of line, balance, and shape dominate Norman's singing.

These first 12 tracks were recorded in the 1980s but the following 14 are new. Norman is joined by the fine pianist Ann Schein in a selection of songs that predate even the Seven Early Songs. Some, such as "Wo der Goldregen steht", belong more to the world of the salon than to that of the primal scream; others, such as the "Lied des Schiffermädels", show a close relationship to the word-sensitivity and, indeed, the accompanimental devices of Schumann and Schubert; others still recall Liszt in the intensity and richness of their harmonic expression.

But there is one surprise left, the 12-note song, "Schliesse mir die Augen beide" from 1925, cleverly paired with its 1907 setting. The voice of the composer might have changed; that of the singer demonstrably has not.

Some will argue that 48 minutes is short measure; but who in his right mind would gauge the quality of such art with a chronometer?

OPERA

John Higgins

■ JULIA VARADY
Puccini arias
Berlin Radio Symphony
Orchestra/Viotti
Orfeo C 323 941 A★★

JULIA Varady is a rare example of a top soprano who prefers not to move too far from home. Berlin, Hamburg, Munich and Vienna now form her regular circuit. But the qualities of her comprehensive survey of Puccini heroines — only Minnie from *Fanciulla* is missing — are enough to cause regret that she has been heard in London so rarely.

Varady, now in her fifties, is still prepared to take on Puccini's little girls as well as his more forceful ladies. Not many sopranos tackle both Liù and Turandot in the same recording session. The latter's "In questa reggia" is given an especially thoughtful interpretation, beginning almost confidentially before Varady lets fly at the end, although not with quite the venom of her compatriot, Eva Marton. The upper register can sound strained, but gives Varady something to get her dramatic teeth into, such as Manon's Act IV aria of despair, and her qualities are on full display.

Varady: thoughtful

Marcello Viotti and the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra provide deferential accompaniment.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ CHARLIE PARKER
With Strings: The
Master Takes
Verve 523984-2★★

This year is the fortieth anniversary of Charlie Parker's death. Viewed in that light, Verve's collection of orchestral arrangements makes a bittersweet memorial, reminding us of his towering ambition, his prowess as a soloist and, ultimately, how circumstances often conspired against him.

For many jazz lovers, of course, the very idea of making an album with strings goes against nature. (The fact that some musicians — admittedly only a minority — have succeeded in bridging the gap apparently counts for nothing.) Parker himself had great hopes that the project, supervised by the ubiquitous Norman Granz, would confer a measure of highbrow respectability on his career.

In terms of sales, the venture must be considered a success since it enabled Parker to break through to the broader audience that had previously shied away from him. On purely musical terms, the verdict is bound to be mixed.

If all the performances matched the standard of the first piece, "Just Friends", there might be fewer grounds for complaint. After the initial flourish of harp and violins, Parker skates in with an economical and propulsive solo that is a model of its kind. From that promising start the arrangements grow progressively more ponderous and intrusive (though they are no worse than the cloying charts served up by many a dance band leader of the period).

Parker is capable of triumphing over the indifferent settings. "April in Paris" is a case in point, the burnished tone of the alto cancelling out the sighing violins. To anyone raised on the breakneck complexities of his earlier bebop masterpieces, his improvisations might seem undernourished, almost skeletal, but the calmer tempos allow him to express a romantic sensibility that struggled to find an outlet in his other work.

☐ SCOTT HAMILTON
Organic Duke
Concord CCD-4623★★

IF it seemed that Hamilton's usual quartets and quintets were in danger of becoming just that bit too suave and predictable, along comes a new variation, the saxophonist lining up next to the chunky Hammond B-3 organ of Mike LeDonne, supported by the bass of Dennis Irwin and Chuck Riggs's drums. The forceful interjections of the Hammond, echoing the reeds and brass sections of a big band, nudge Hamilton into a more prickly stance, though his ballads are as serene as ever. While diminishing returns begin to set in over the course of ten tracks, the thoughtful selection of lesser known Ellington numbers — "Jump For Joy", "Love You Madly", and so on — keep the musicians busy to the end.

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

■ SIMPLE MINDS
Good News From The
Next World
Virgin CDV 2760★★

AND then there were two. Not really a band any more, Simple Minds have weathered more than a decade of attrition to arrive at a line-up reduced to the songwriting core of singer Jim Kerr and guitarist Charlie Burchill. Of course, there is no shortage of hired hands who contribute to *Good News From The Next World*, notably virtuoso drummer Vinnie Colaiuta, recently to be found in Sting's band.

But it is significant that no new keyboard players have been drafted in to replace Michael McNeil, and apart from a few discreet touches by Burchill, the album is, for the most part, a keyboard-free zone. The result is a leaner, harder sound than in their 1980s heyday. All of a sudden you can hear the guitar.

Simple Minds: alert

The numbers even seem to be shorter and more to the point, with Kerr confining his lyrics to personal matters, rather than furnishing various world leaders with the benefit of his advice on the great issues of the day.

Regardless of any 1980s revival, Simple Minds are now a band hideously out of joint with the times. But in cutting back on the ornamental excess, they have emerged with their dignity intact and a surprisingly alert album.

☐ McALMONT
McAlmont
Hut/Virgin 7243 8 39686★★

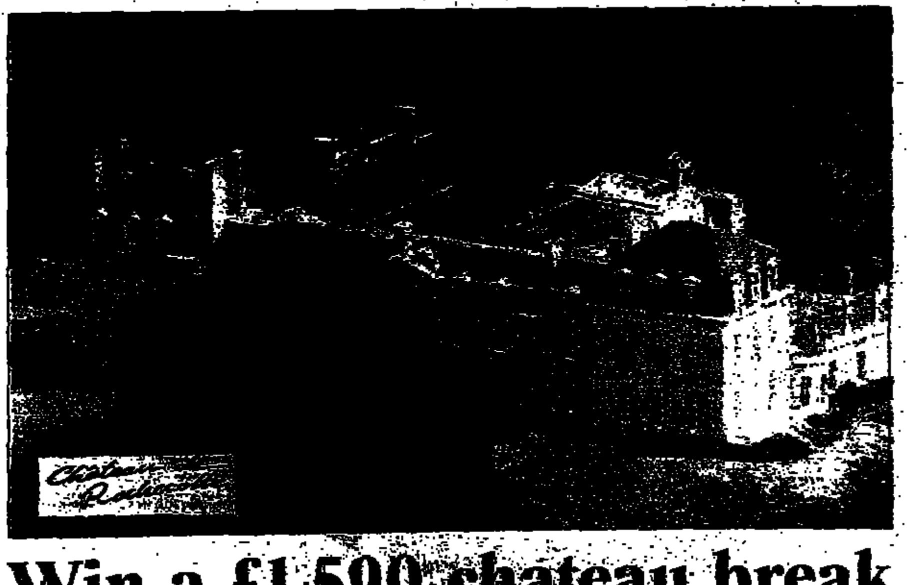
David McAlmont's debut does not sound as if it was either written or recorded in a hurry.

An immaculately stylish and seductive collection, it borrows inspiration from a cast which includes Marvin Gaye, David Bowie, the Cocteau Twins and Joni Mitchell (whose composition "Conversation" from *Ladies Of The Canyon*, McAlmont has reinvented as a gay love song).

But with his syrupy, falsetto voice gently cushioned by the most sophisticated of modern, electro-soul arrangements on songs such as "Is It Raining?" and the current single "Either", the singer from Croydon via Guyana parlays this cocktail of influences into a style that is entirely his own.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

THE TIMES



Win a £1,590 chateau break

One of the finest mansions of the Loire Valley, Chateau de Rochecotte hosts house parties and specialist holidays for lovers of art, wine, bridge or gardens.

Today *The Times* is offering two prizes of a week's break for two people worth £1,590 plus the cost of return ferry travel for each couple and their car.

Connoisseur Holidays, who organise the luxury breaks, also offer all *Times* readers a discount of 10 per cent on bookings made before February 21.

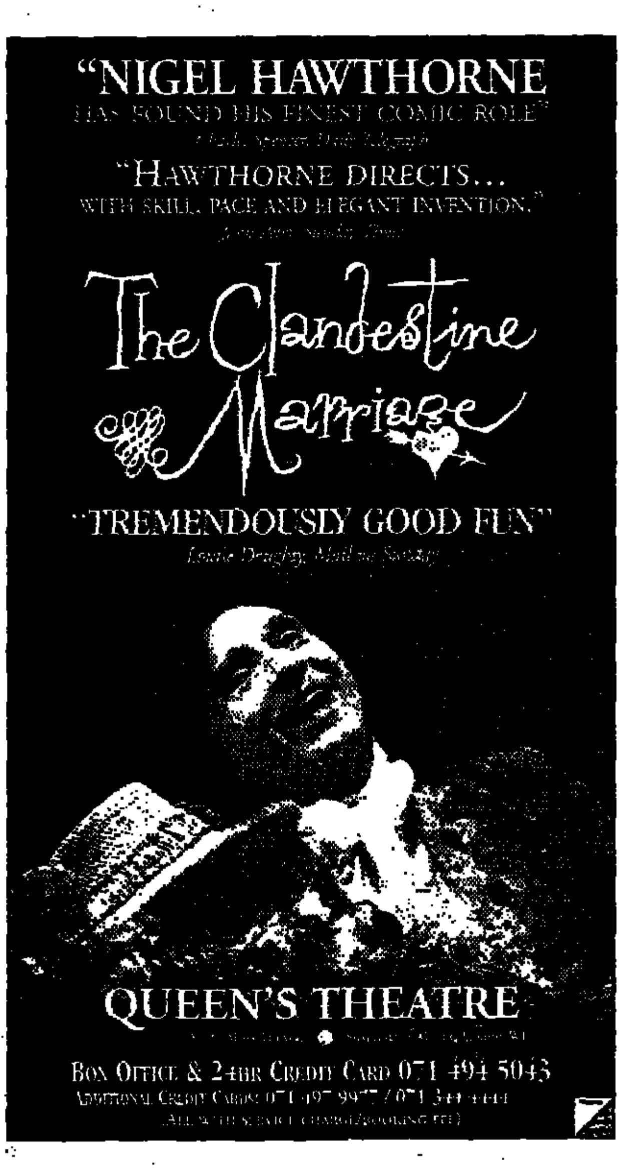
Situated in one of the most beautiful regions of France, the chateau is a four-star Relais Gastronomique hotel in 20 acres of gardens, surrounded by forests. Each Saturday it welcomes about 30 Britons who spend a week learning from a highly qualified specialist as well as visiting the surrounding countryside and enjoying the superb food. Traditional holidays are offered for people who just want to relax. Breaks cost £795 for a week and the only extras are wine with dinner and a single room supplement of £160.

For further details, phone the brochure and bookings hotline on 0171-376 3456 or write to: Connoisseur Holidays, 35 Oakley Gardens, London SW3 5QQ. To obtain your *Times* reader's discount you must book by February 21, although the holiday can be taken at any time. Connoisseur Holidays can also arrange your ferry or tunnel crossing at preferential rates.

COMPETITION

Win one of two breaks for two people, including return ferry travel, by sending the answers to the questions below along with your name and a daytime telephone number to: The Times Chateau Competition, 16 Whitefriars Street, London, EC88 2NG. The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by the closing date, February 5 1995. Usual Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. Name the Roman army officer who deserted and went to live as a hermit in a cave before he was elected Bishop of Tours.
2. Near which town in the Loire region was the satirist and wine connoisseur François Rabelais born?
3. Which English poet lived in Royale, Orleans, in 1791 and fell in love with a Royalist despite his support for the revolution?
4. Which Loire district was the first outside of Champagne to make sparkling wines by the traditional method in 1811?



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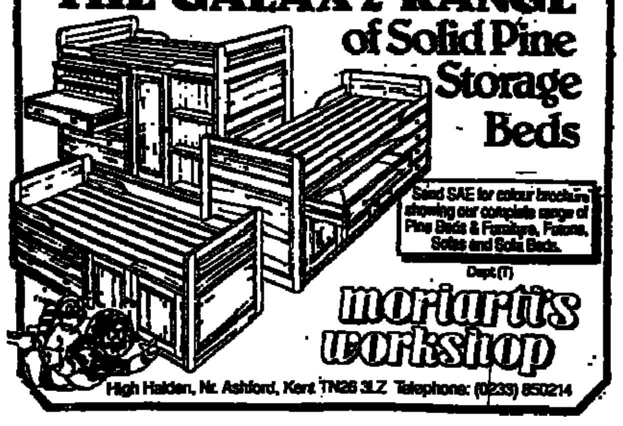

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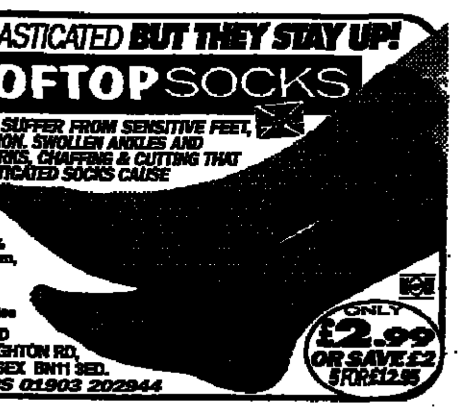

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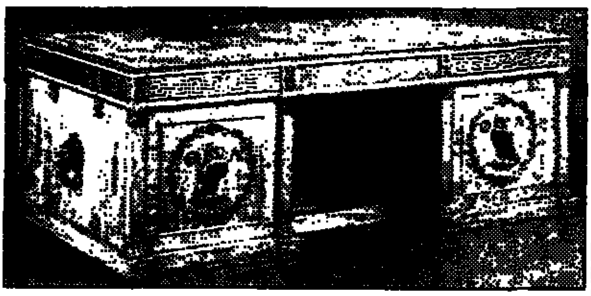

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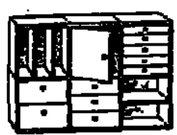

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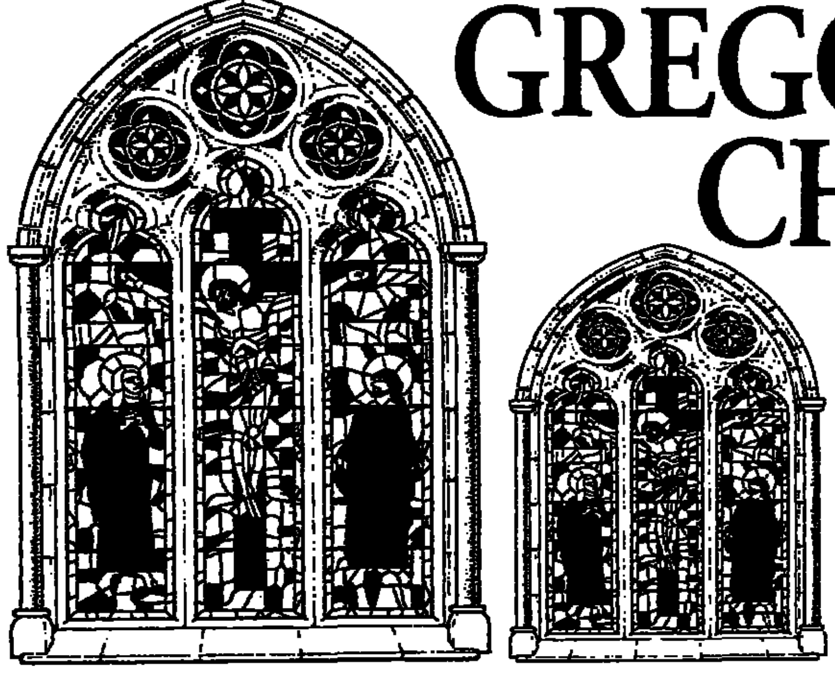

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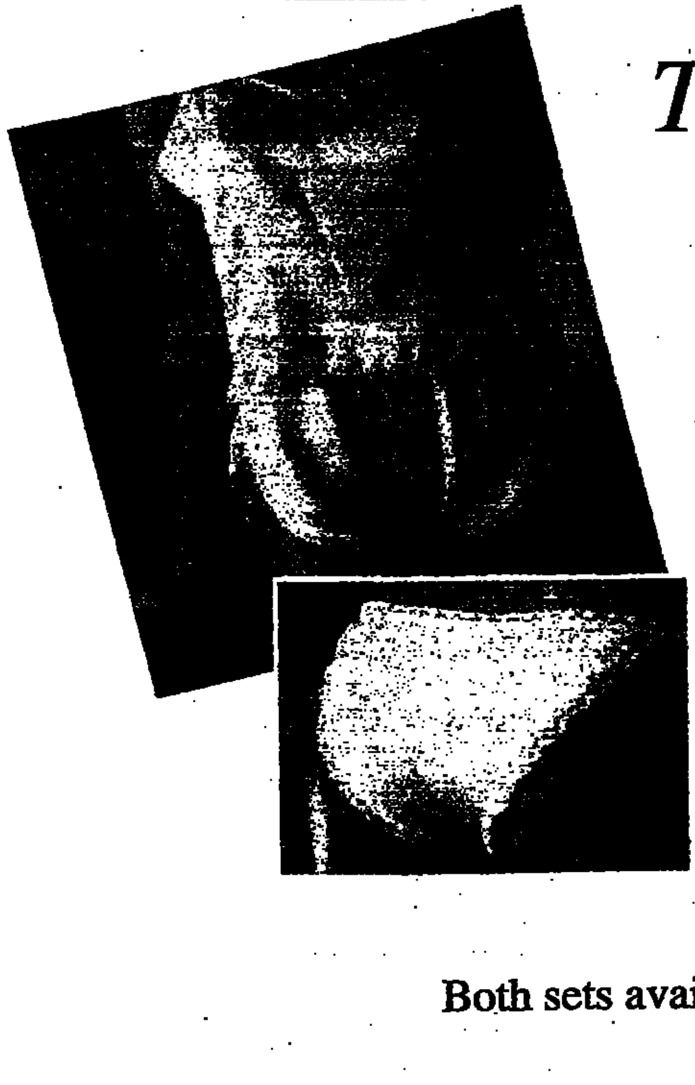

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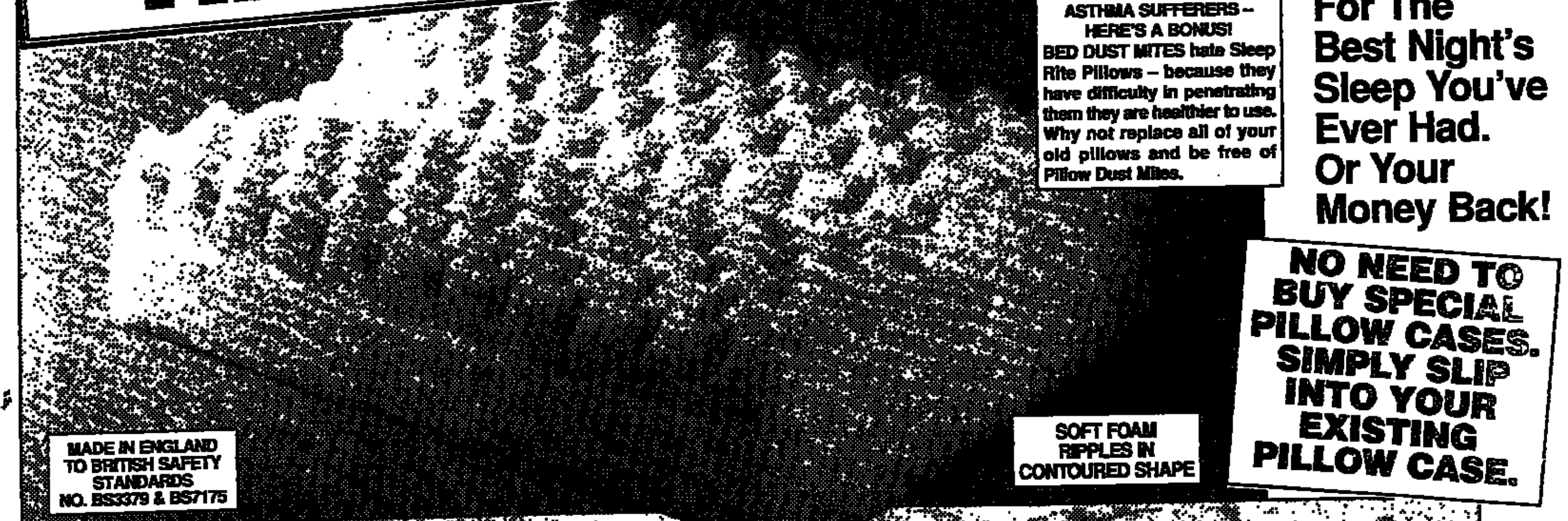

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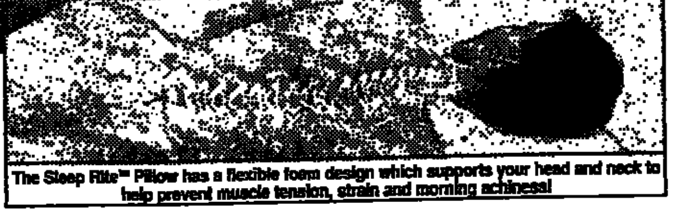

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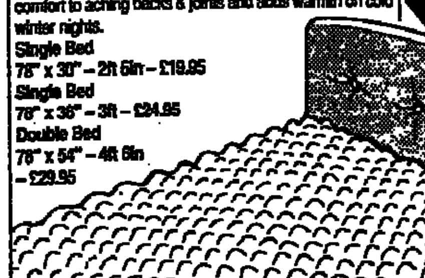

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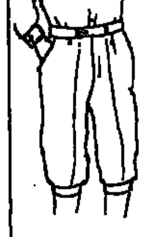

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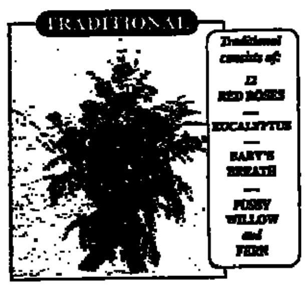

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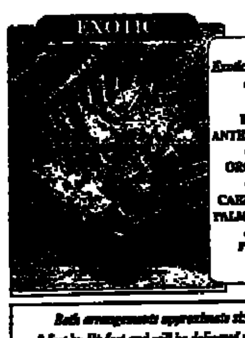

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Plans to move the world's most important horticultural library out of London have caused a furore. Here are the arguments

Grafting on new life or an unkind cut?

FOR

Successful libraries constantly need to expand to cope with the burgeoning number of new journals, reports and books. At present, the Royal Horticultural Society has two libraries, both of which are inadequate.

The Lindley Library in Vincent Square, central London, was established in 1866 and contains many fine works, such as Redouté's *Les Roses* from 1817, a vastly expensive and revolutionary work that aimed to cover all the varieties of rose available at the time. The library contains nearly 50,000 volumes of books and pamphlets, dating from 1514 to the present, about 18,000 botanical drawings, approximately 1,500 runs of periodicals and a collection of trade catalogues representing 3,200 companies. Members and non-members are entitled to use the library, although non-members cannot borrow books. However, the library is cramped and antique, and will not be able to cope with further additions to its collection.

The reference library, which moved to Wisley in 1903, consists primarily of duplicate copies of works held at Vincent Square, although the society's collection of plant pathology and entomology books are held there. The library is for the use of staff and students at Wisley, although members may apply to carry out research there. But it is too small and inaccessible.

Rosa damascena coccinea from Redouté's *Les Roses*

> "The new library would form an exciting new centrepiece"

In 1989, the Library Review report recommended that the two libraries should come under the same roof. It considered that the best long-term solution would be either a new purpose-built library at Wisley or major construction work at Vincent Square.

In November last year, the RHS Council met to consider a further report on the future location of the Lindley Library, which also recommended Wisley. The council endorsed the building of a new library at Wisley, while providing a reading room at Vincent Square. The library cannot be kept in the square because neither the design nor the size of the building could accommodate the facilities needed.

Some have suggested that we look for an alternative site in London, but we ruled this out because a suitable site has proved impossible to find. It seems logical that the two libraries should be combined. This will give users more space and better conditions, as well as providing a better environment for the storage of archive material. A controlled environment — exactly the right humidity — is crucial for the preservation of the library's rare books and manuscripts.

But we do not intend to move to Wisley just because that is the only option. One of the society's priorities for the next ten years is to develop our scientific and educational projects. At present, Wisley's facilities are woefully inadequate, so we need new laboratories, a new herbarium and new lecture rooms.

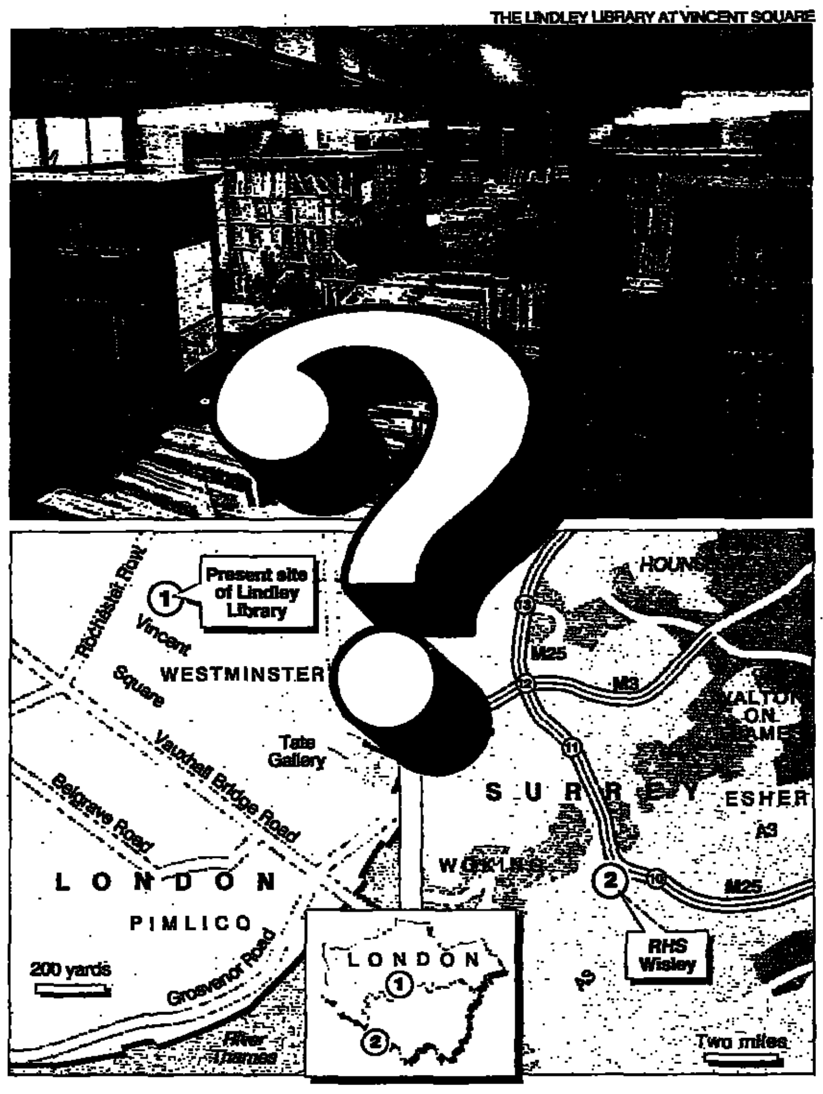
The centre would also contain technology that would provide access to information from horticultural and botanical institutes from around the world. The new library would form the centrepiece of this exciting horticultural resource.

There is, of course, the problem of funding. We need millions of pounds to transform Wisley. The campaign has already started with the establishment of the *RHS Foundation*, headed by Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of Thorn EMI. The foundation will seek to raise large amounts of capital as the society's income and reserves will not be sufficient. We are confident that the cash can be found. The other drawback is, of course, reduced access for those who presently use the Lindley Library. The reading room at Vincent Square should fulfill most people's needs. Wisley is not so far away from central London, and the society intends to provide a minibus service to nearby mainline stations.

The RHS was established "for the purpose of the encouragement, and improvement of scientific and practical horticulture". The society is a major charity and we must fulfill that role. I believe that by making Wisley the centre of horticulture in Britain we will be doing just that.

SIMON HORNBY
President of the RHS

THE LINDLEY LIBRARY AT VINCENT SQUARE



Comments on the move should be sent to Gordon Rae, RHS director general, 80 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PE, by Tuesday, January 31. A discussion about the future of the Lindley Library will take place at the AGM on February 21.

AGAINST

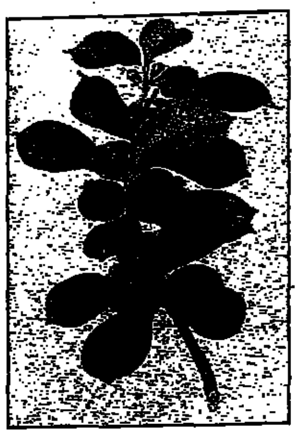
The idea that one of the world's most important horticulture libraries may be removed from London has caused consternation to its users. The rich archives of the Lindley Library of the Royal Horticultural Society are a superb resource for anyone with a serious interest in plants and gardens.

For almost a century the library has been in Westminster, at RHS headquarters in Vincent Square, and accessible from any point in the kingdom. Transplanted to the RHS Garden at Wisley, in West Surrey, this library will become woefully inaccessible.

Wisley is a tough place to get to, particularly for drivers who loathe the M25. Worse still, it is badly served by public transport: visitors must take a train from Waterloo and then either a coach or a taxi to reach the gardens.

The journey takes not less than one hour from London and can easily take twice as long. If the library moves, the extra cost will deter many users, especially students, and the inconvenience will deter many more.

Of course, plenty of people *do* reach Wisley Gardens — more than half a million last year. But it seems unlikely that, as the RHS claims, having a specialist library there will prove an asset to a public which predominantly sees Wisley as a place to stroll, to consult experts, and to shop. It is one thing to go for a coach outing to look at flowers, and quite another to pore over learned journals.



Psidium cattleianum from *Transactions of the Horticultural Society*

> "Half those surveyed said they would not travel to Wisley"

Christopher Lloyd and Graham Stuart Thomas stand at the pinnacle of the British horticultural world. Both reprehend the decision to move to Wisley. Mr Thomas points out that Wisley is already at times overcrowded and that further development will mean creating more car parking and felling of trees.

Mr Lloyd is equally opposed to the plan: "There is plenty already at Wisley to amuse school parties," he says. "They don't want an old library. Wisley is so out on a limb, making it extremely hard for people to go and check references."

One beauty of Vincent Square is that one can time visits to the library to coincide with the RHS monthly flower shows. *It is sad to think of that link being broken.*

Regrettably, the RHS seems to have made only a feeble effort to ascertain what the move to Wisley will mean to the library's users. In 1993, 1,818 people made a total of 3,500 visits, making it one of the more popular specialist libraries in the country. Yet a survey taken last year involved only 277 visitors. Half said they would not use the library if it moved out of London; only 4 per cent said that getting to Wisley would not be a problem. Five years ago, another remarkably small survey of RHS members (there are more than 170,000) showed that, if the library moved to Wisley, 61 per cent were either unlikely or would definitely not be using it.

What of the other two options? The first is that more room is squeezed from the Vincent Square site, either by moving staff into rented premises or down to Wisley. Not surprisingly, they do not want to go. The second is finding a suitable building in the vicinity. Given the drawbacks of Wisley, it is depressing to find the RHS Council so determined to press on down the route it has selected.

Although the provisional decision was taken only in late November, the council insists the final decision must be made in mid-March. Members have until Tuesday, January 31, to put their comments in writing, and views can be expressed at the AGM on February 21. However, there will be no opportunity for members to vote on the issue.

Within the upper echelons of the society, distinguished voices are urging it to hold its horses. The RHS is the most prestigious horticultural body in the world, well placed to lure rich benefactors and, maybe, a London solution. Indeed, the library has in the past benefited from just such acts of generosity. Such huggermugger impatience to banish the books to the sticks is not the right way to treat the world's most famous horticultural collection.

PATRICIA MORISON
Garden writer and academic

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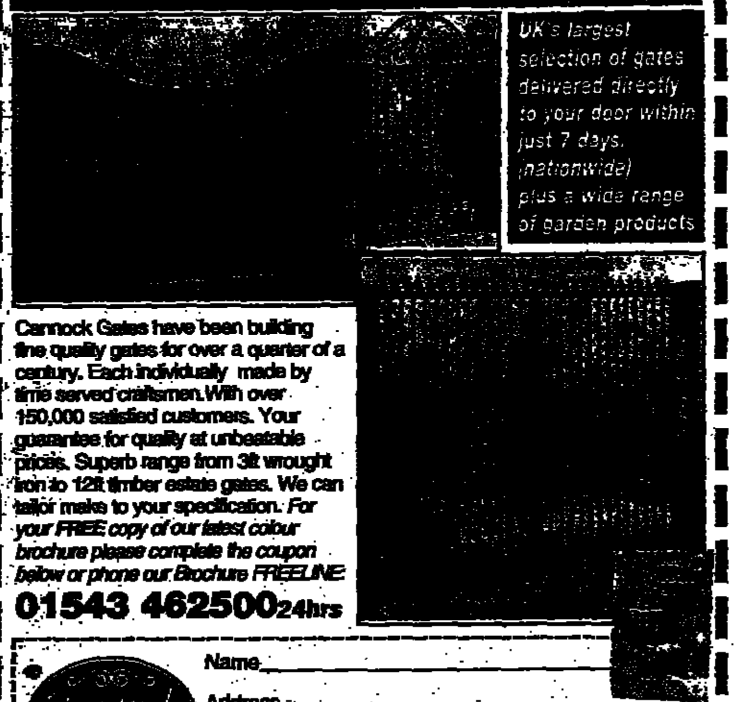
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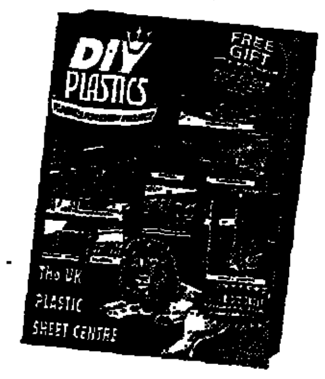

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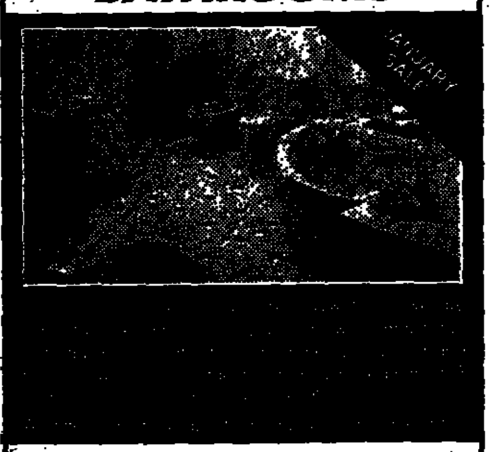

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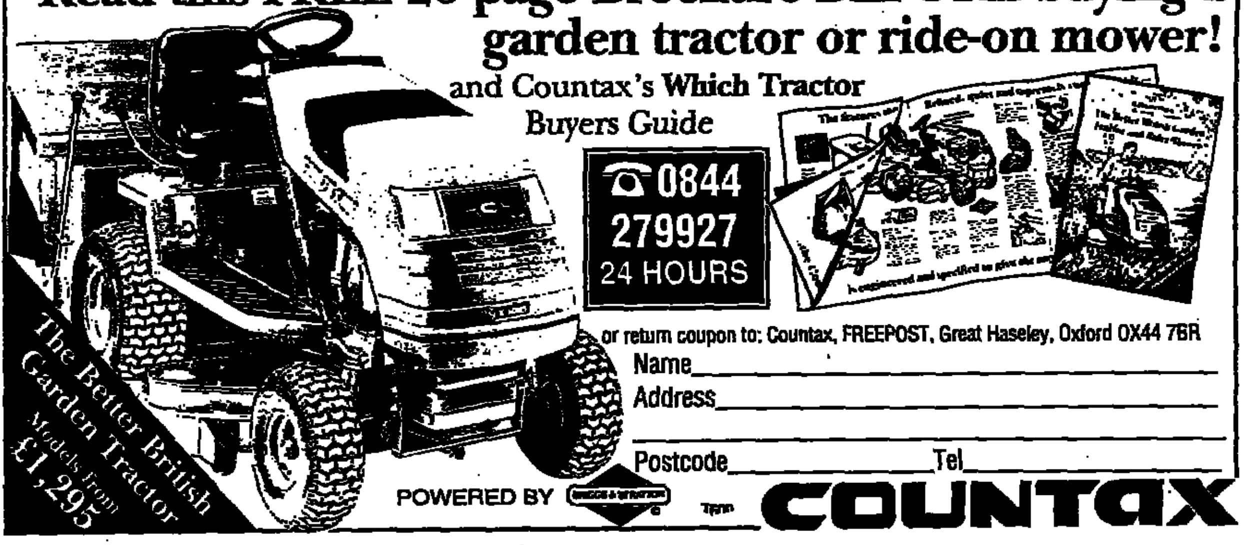

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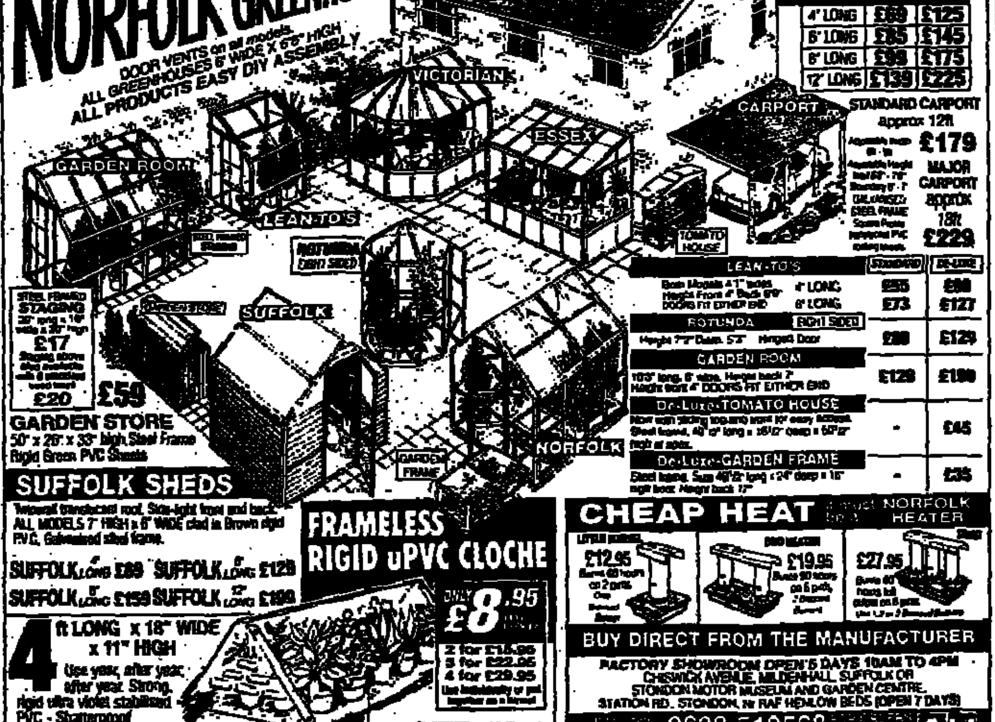

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GARDENING

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, visits a designer town garden created from a derelict site

Early days: Lynne Ross and her designer garden

Shape of things to come

To visit any garden with a view to writing about it only a few months after its construction is expecting a lot — especially in the depths of winter. But Nigel and Lynne Ross's garden in Regent's Park, northwest London, demonstrates how a small town garden can be rewarding year-round right from the outset.

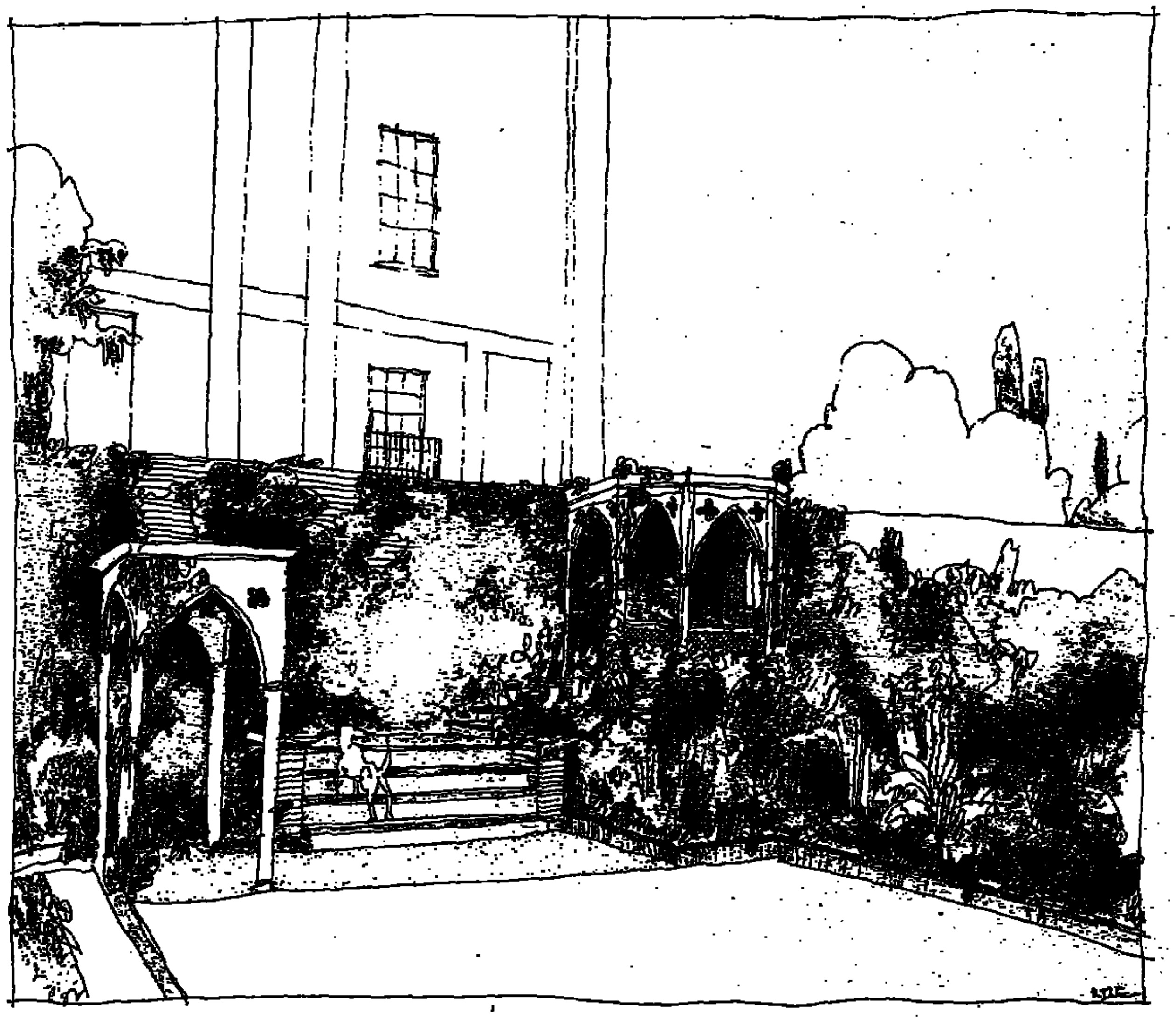
Mr and Mrs Ross want the garden, designed by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan of Elizabeth Banks Associates, to have a rambling country feel, with dense planting giving an atmosphere of abundance. To start with, Mr Longstaffe-Gowan laid out a clear framework of paths, walls, steps and small decorative buildings. The planting around them will grow in the spring to fill out the lines and create the desired effect.

The site is unusual because there is such a marked variation in levels. Although the garden is only 150 sq m, there is a drop of two and a half metres, and this inspired the terraced design which is the basis of the garden's year-round interest and which greatly increases the potential of such a confined area.

In the corner of the boundary wall, an entrance leads into a green-painted wooden alcove designed in a Gothic style to compliment the house's architecture. There are two other small buildings in the same style, one forming the enclosure around a wrought-iron seat, the other a pergola at the top of a flight of steps. Together, the three buildings give the garden a strong unity from all viewpoints.

It is difficult to make a young garden look established — new planting always looks new — but architectural elements, such as the three buildings, and the flights of stone steps, help enormously.

Steps down from the entrance alcove lead on to a lawn — roughly 40 sq m — which covers most of the upper level, with a seat positioned invitingly on the far side. The drop from the lawn to the terrace is taken up by a raised bed just under two metres deep with a brick retaining wall along the front and a second one behind.



The terrace makes the most of the two and a half metre drop within the garden, while evergreens ensure winter interest

The garden's second main border along the far side of the lawn runs parallel with a boundary wall. A dense mass of ivy was left there when the main garden was cleared of rubbish and undergrowth as a precursor of the rambling style that the Mr and Mrs Ross hope to achieve. This effect is already being enhanced by the evergreen Clematis *armandii*, which produces creamy-white flowers in spring, trained against the wooden pergola, and the white-flowered Solanum *jasminoides* 'Album' against a tall boundary wall.

The most important single element in the design is the miniature box hedging which lines all the planted borders. There are plenty of evergreens, including Elaeagnus x *ebbingei* which has shiny green leaves with pale undersides, and Osmanthus *heterophyllus* which grows into a dome and has smaller, holly-like leaves. There are also groups of evergreen euphorbias, E. *robbiae* with small, oval leaves and E. *mellifera* with contrastingly bold, sword-shaped leaves. To give unity and balance, certain plants are repeated in groups in different beds and borders.

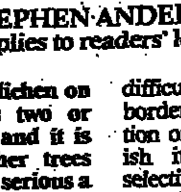
The Ross's garden is not an "instant" creation, but thoughtful planning and a firm original design means that the garden can be rewarding, even in its early stages.

● *Elizabeth Banks Associates, 13 Abercorn Place, London NW8 (0171-624 5740). To commission a garden of a similar size and complexity by a top-quality designer costs £5,000-£10,000, including supervision. Construction and planting costs are extra.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Sow short-rooted carrot seeds under glass to ensure an early crop of delicate baby carrots.*
- *Check the condition of plants being overwintered in the greenhouse: pelargoniums should be kept dry, fuchsias will need occasional watering.*
- *Prepare seed beds and, if necessary, cover them with cloches.*
- *Start filling a jar of water with old bits of soap to ensure you have a good supply for the spraying aphids in the summer.*

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q We noticed lichen on our azaleas two or three years ago, and it is spreading to other trees and shrubs. How serious a problem is this and is there any way of dealing with it? — Mrs Brenda Maitland, Liphook, Hants.

A In a moist climate where the air is relatively free of pollution lichen will often grow on trees and shrubs. Lichen in itself is not a serious problem, but it will play host to insects and fungi which can damage fruit bushes or trees with ornamental bark. A winter spray with a tar-oil wash will solve the problem.

Q My garden is being taken over by a tiny creeping weed with rounded leaves a few millimetres wide. It is now spreading into the lawn. What is it and how do I treat it? — V. Henderson, London SW1.

A The plant is Soleirolia *soleirolii* (or Helxine as it used to be known), or "mind your own business", so called, it is said, because if you poke a finger into its soft carpet the stems do not spring up but leave a depression, like a footprint in snow.

It is often grown as a house plant, making a tidy cushion of green or variegated foliage, but in mild climates it will survive outdoors. The stems root easily, so pieces broken off usually survive and re-establish. Birds and the barely half-rotten sides of compost heaps spread it most effectively. It is not difficult to eradicate. In borders, a careful application of glyphosate will polish it off. In lawns a selective weedkiller is required, such as you would use for clover or buttercups.

Q Last November I moved to a new house and garden. Snowdrops are coming up everywhere, and there are crocuses, too, although showing no sign of flower. All the spring bulbs seem early this year, but will the crocuses be harmed from coming into leaf so soon? — P. R. Kerrigan, Richmond, N. Yorks.

A Despite the earliness of the season, crocuses do not usually precede snowdrops. Even Crocus *tommasinianus*, probably the first to flower, usually gives snowdrops a head start. I suspect your crocus leaves will turn out to be an autumn-flowering species such as Crocus *nudiflorus* or *speciosus*. It is not unusual for these species to be in leaf in December.

The flowers appear without the leaves in September to October, and are best grown in turf 2in-3in long which can support their necks.

● *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

CD DIRECT: **Stephen Pettitt** assesses the enduring legacy of one of chamber music's most influential and long-lived quartets

The Amadeus takes a bow

W. NEUMEISTER

The Amadeus Quartet played together for 40 years and its style influenced a generation of younger musicians

Of all the many varieties of musicians that there are, none, in my experience, is fundamentally nicer or more genuine than the genus whose natural habitat is the string quartet. There are, of course, reasons for that. When four are gathered together to play the great chamber works, the nature of the music rarely lends an excuse for any exhibitionism from the players. Chamber music is music at its purest and most musical. And if that chamber music happens to be scored for four string players who have more or less equal prominence, or at least upon each of whom the success of the music equally depends, then there is no room for overbearing egos.

And, to be worldly about it, a string quartet's fees rarely add up to as much as the rate paid to a single soloist of equivalent standing. In short, string quartets — and chamber musicians in general — play because they like it, because they positively relish the great and often unselfish act of co-operation necessary to realise the ideas of the composer.

In the case of the Amadeus Quartet, that act of co-operation was recognised throughout the world as one of the most perfect for 40 years. These four men first came together as musicians in London in 1947. Three of them were Jews who had been forced to emigrate in their youth from Austria shortly before the onset of the Second World War. The other was a Londoner born and bred.

The Austrian trio — Norbert Brainin, Siegmund Nissel and Peter Schidlof — were all born within 15 months of each other in 1922 and 1923, and together they studied in London in the 1940s under the renowned violinist Max Rostal. The sole native Englishman, Martin Lovett, cultivated his technique under his father and at the Royal College of Music, where Ivor James was his teacher.

The quartet made its debut at the Wigmore Hall on January 10, 1948, and it was an immediate success here, in Europe and, remarkably quickly for those times, further afield. The members were showered with honours from many nations — including CBEs from the one that had become their own.

Their programmes depended by and large upon the core repertoire of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert, though they were also more than ready to undertake excursions into relatively unknown territory. Britten's movingly spare Third and final String Quartet (1975) was composed specifically for them.

They were also quite happy tackling the tougher masterpieces of Bartók and Tippett. With the death in 1987 of Peter Schidlof, the quartet disbanded. Having, surely uniquely, retained the same membership since its formation, the surviving members must have seen no other option.

Many of the best of the younger quartets around today have at some time or another been influenced by the Amadeus, often through the energetic and affable personal teaching of the surviving three. It is not hard to understand why after hearing the selection of masterly CDs which feature in this month's offer. They all serve to remind one of the essence of what quartet and chamber music playing is all about: not just coming to an understanding of the composer and his music, but being willing to absorb the inevitably slightly different understandings of one's colleagues.

If that sounds like interpretation through compromise, nothing could be further from the truth, for compromise implies shaving off edges here and there to find a common core. The Amadeus's co-operation was a more constructive matter than that, involving the building of ideas, the mutual enrichment of views.

What comes across in these performances is exactly that unanimity of purpose, that sense of a performance being an elegantly constructed edifice. At every turn of the music, one senses that these players knew exactly what was happening, that each was thoroughly familiar with all the others' parts. At the same time they relished that essential interplay between what had been carefully rehearsed and what the spontaneity of the moment might bring.

But string quartets are also judged on the kind of sound that they make. The Amadeus's tone was richly rounded, very Germanic, or at least mid-European, in flavour. Full bow strokes were the order of the day: there was no pussy-footing even in Haydn, whose textures these days are sometimes given too much air.

Some, indeed, criticised the Amadeus for playing with too much sophisticated richness, for not allowing either delicacy or the odd rough and rustic touches into its playing. Certainly the fashion today is to shy away from the Amadeus's tendency to inject portamento — the sliding from one note to another — into its phrasing.

Yet it would be a mistake to allow personal taste and contemporary fashion to cloud our judgments of whether or not a performance enables the music to speak. The Amadeus's performances invariably did just that.

These recordings, some of which feature some of the quartet's most illustrious contemporaries co-operating in works scored for instrumental configurations different from their own, are immensely valuable not just as testaments of a particular style of performance but also as illustrations of how some of the most sophisticated, beautiful and intimate music ever written can be brought elegantly and rewardingly alive.

THE TIMES
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Haydn "Emperor" Quartet
Mozart "Hunt" Quartet
Amadeus Quartet
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These two quartets represent the best of each composer's work in the string quartet genre. Mozart's, completed in November 1784, gets its name from its first movement, with its resonances of hunting calls and its use of the galloping 6/8 time signature. Haydn's, written in 1796 along with the rest of the set, is called "The Emperor" because its third movement is a set of variations upon Haydn's "Emperor's Hymn", the tune which was to achieve fame as the Austrian national anthem. The Amadeus's approach is full-blooded, but not so much that the light and shade of phrasing is lost.

Smetana String Quartet No 1, "From my Life"
Dvořák String Quartet Op 96, "American"
Amadeus Quartet
T019502

These two Czech works have deservedly taken their places at the centre of the late Romantic repertoire. Smetana's autobiographical, lyrically dark, nostalgic quartet, written in 1876 after the onset of deafness, is given an atmospheric performance that yet avoids a feeling of over-indulgence. Dvořák's "American" Quartet, composed in the United States in only three days, has a warmer sense of nostalgia to which the Amadeus responds willingly.

Schubert Trout Quintet
Amadeus Quartet, Emil Gilels, Rainer Zepperitz
T019503

Schubert's masterpiece of 1819 is the early Romantic chamber work *par excellence*. This lovely recording, made in 1976, is one of the finest achievements of the Amadeus's later career. There is the formidable Emil Gilels at the piano. Rainer Zepperitz provides the solid foundations of the double-bass part, a role which enables the cellist to indulge in more lyricism than might otherwise be found in such a work. The disc is completed with an equally-ripe performance of the dramatic single C minor movement for string quartet, known simply as the "Quartettsatz" or "Quartet-movement", written in 1820 as part of a never-completed quartet.

Brahms Chamber Works
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This is another vintage set consisting of Brahms's six major chamber works for forces larger than quartet. The recordings were first published in 1967 and 1968 but sound excellently close and alive after their transfer to CD. Again the quartet is augmented by some of the leadin players of the day, includin for the F minor Piano Quint a very young Christoph Esc enbach and for the sextets an string quintets the legendar viola player Cecil Aronowit The Amadeus never allows th rich scoring to cloy into ove thick textures, and the musi flows easily without losing an of its dramatic impact.

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Michael Church's dental appointment leads to a fascinating guided tour by Britain's foremost collector of antique Chinese armoury

Dentist with a taste for deadly weapons

The bloodthirsty Chinese oriental military prints decorating my dentist's surgery always struck me as rather incongruous, anxious as he was to avoid inflicting pain on his patients. But they made more sense when Anthony Wong casually remarked that he was providing most of the material for an exhibition of Chinese arms and armour at the British Museum.

Brought up in his native Hong Kong and sent to public school in Edinburgh, Mr Wong initially had no interest in antique Chinese weapons beyond the fact that he used less lethal variants for martial arts training.

His double life began seven years ago, while he was off work with a hand injury. He happened to stroll into Robert Hales's oriental antique shop in Kensington Church Street, west London, and found himself buying three brass-ornamented poles made for an 18th-century Chinese monastery. At the same time several baronial collections of Chinese arms and armour were put on the market, and Mr Wong began to amass his own collection of Ching Dynasty (1644-1911) weaponry.

Arms have occupied a key place in Chinese culture since the 7th century: in battle, on the stage, in temples and in the most refined intellectual homes (even Confucius wore a sword). It was for centuries a point of honour among scholars to be able to wield a weapon.

Chinese weapons have always been overshadowed by their infinitely finer Japanese counterparts (while a good Japanese sword can cost anything from £10,000 to £50,000, a good Chinese one can be had for approximately £500). This disparity is partly because the Chinese have never made a fetish of weaponry and partly because few historians have taken an interest in the field.

Chinese weapons, moreover, are in woefully short supply, because Mao's backyard smelters consumed every bit of steel they could find, and this part of the country's national heritage was first in line. That the field exists at all is largely thanks to the job lots grabbed by European military looters during the 19th century "China Wars".

Mr Wong is now the leading collector in Britain. To encourage others to join in the chase, he took me on a tour of his collection and estimated what each piece would fetch at auction. The first distinction to bear in mind, he says, is that between ceremonial and battle purposes: weapons in the former category are heavy, blunt, and often made of bronze. The second distinction is between "official" and "rebel" weapons (sporadic civil strife was endemic in China from 1800 onwards). Chinese swords, he says, seldom bear marks of origin: the same designs prevailed for centuries throughout the country. But official swords are better crafted and of finer materials than those used by rebels.

In a cupboard stands a row of short swords in shark-skin scabbards. An officer's sword, circa 1800, with delicate brass ornamentation (£800); plus several simpler ones — "standard issue for the Manchurian cavalry" — which might sell for £400 each.

Mr Wong pulls out a ceremonial sword dating from the early 18th century, its ivory handle carved with scenes from the Chinese opera, and its blade beautifully inlaid with Buddhist figures in a gold-based amalgam: £800. Next to it is an executioner's sword (dented — ie, well-used): £1,000. This macabre object bears the inscription *ging* — "to clean", or rid the world of criminality. Made around 1800, it could have been in use as late as 1920.

He then shows me a 19th-century scholar's sword, disguised as a thin wooden box with a mother-of-pearl inlay. "For poking, not hacking." This is rare, but could still be had for under £1,000.

"And this is what we call a tiger hook" — a vicious-looking combat weapon used by ordinary soldiers around 1800, designed to cut, rip or impale. "And a Boxer Rebellion butterfly knife" — a short fat sword which, when drawn from its leather scabbard, reveals itself to be two identical weapons back-to-back: just the job for scrapping in the street. £500 for the tiger and the butterfly.

Next, a giant "reverse" bow made of wood, horn, and sinew, used by soldiers on horseback. "It takes great strength, but the arrow will go an immense distance." This early 19th-century relic might cost £1,000, but the officer's more elegant folding bow beside it would cost much less.

Mr Wong's addiction took a new direction when he bought his first military "badge", and his stairway is now lined with these exquisitely luminous embroideries which Chinese warriors wore on their surcoats. Each is about 12 in square, in silk and gold thread, and depicts mythical beasts appropriate to the bearer's rank.

Mr Wong's prize badge dates from 1500, and was discovered in a Tibetan temple in almost perfect condition. It depicts a five-clawed dragon and would therefore have been worn by the equivalent of a duke. This badge would now fetch £9,000, but more recent ones in less good condition can be found for as little as £100. Until Bertolucci's film *The Last Emperor* started a vogue for Chinese textiles, nobody had bothered much about these badges or about ceremonial battledress.

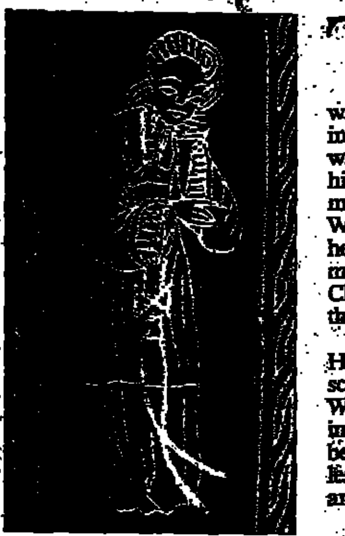
Yet during Mr Wong's seven-year trawl, the market in Chinese weaponry has still merely kept pace with inflation. One benign side-effect is that fakes are not a problem. As he points out, the skill required to fool the experts would cost far more than the finished product would fetch.

Dr Oliver Moore, who is curating the British Museum exhibition, describes this whole subject as "virtually *terra incognita*". The British Museum had never staged an exhibition on this subject before, and Mr Wong's collection presented a good opportunity.

Mr Wong buys in London, at Hales's, and at the big auction houses. In the absence, so far, of any major British rivals, he is most often in competition with Taiwanese collectors who are trying to reclaim their lost heritage.

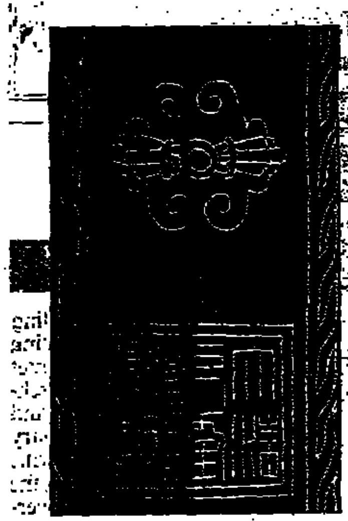
- *Chinese Arms and Armour, at the British Museum, until February 15.*
- *Chinese arms and armour can also be seen at: Museo d'Arte Orientale Marco Polo, Palazzo Pesaro, Santa Croce 2078, Venice; Musee de l'Armee, Hotel de Invalides, Paris 75007: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York 10028; Museum fur Volkerkunde, Neue Hofburg, Heldenplatz 1014, Vienna; Museum of Far Eastern Art, Dahlen, Langstrasse 8, Berlin; The Wallace Collection, Manchester Square W.1, also has a small collection (0171-935 0687).*

> ❛ Mao was so desperate for steel he sent China's national heritage to the smelters ❜



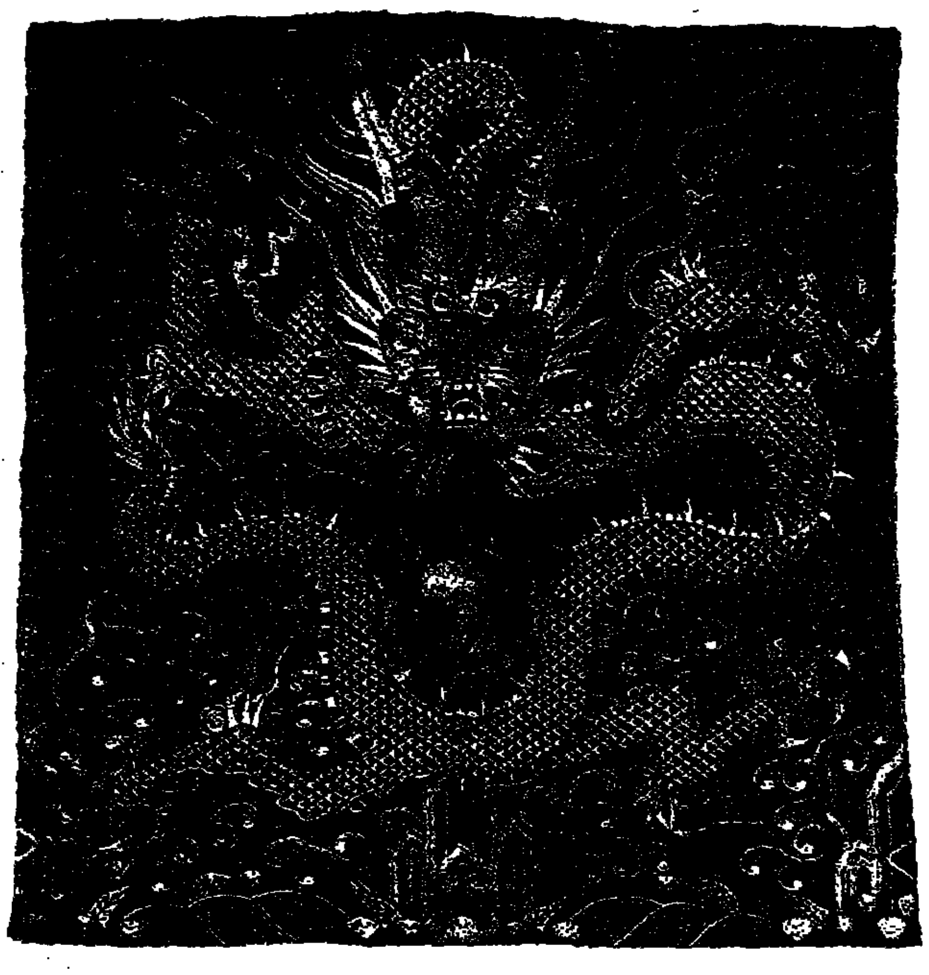
Buddhist figure inlaid on the blade of a sword

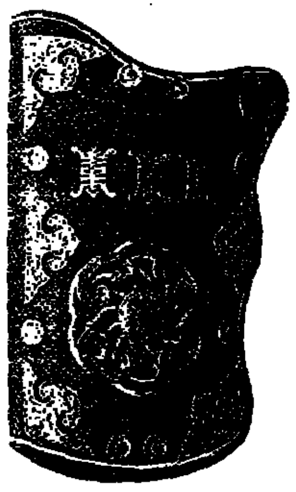
The ornate ivory handle *of a ceremonial sword*



Emperor's seal inscribed on a sword blade

ALAN WELLER





THE WAR CABINET
Above: *Anthony Wong* holding a Ching Dynasty officer's sword, dating *from* about 1800, beside a glass-fronted display case of *period weapons*, including a Chinese warrior's helmet.

Left: Ming Dynasty rank badge, circa 1500, belonging to a duke.

Below: An officer's quiver, Ching Dynasty, circa 1800

SALEROOM

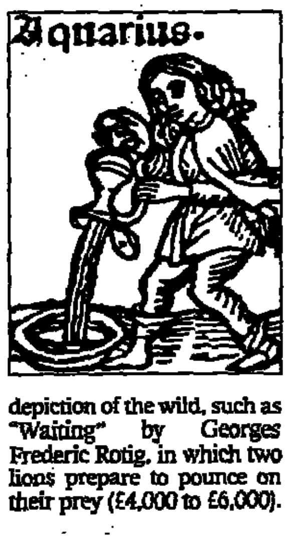
☐ *On Monday* the **Catto Gallery** in London celebrates the start of the Chinese Year of the Pig with an exhibition by the contemporary artist Peter Rupert Lighte on the theme of the 12 signs of the zodiac. Each painting incorporates abstract patterns with ancient and modern characters as well as tiny representations of each sign. Prices range from £600 to £650.

☐ Some 30 artists and craftsmen have been commissioned by **The Gallery in Cork Street**, west London, to create works on the theme of love for St Valentine's Day. Keith Bailey's "Totem of Love" — an inscribed free-standing *column of white* Portland stone — weighs in at £500, while Hans Stofer's "Adam and Eve", two phallic boxes containing an apple and two grapes, is priced at £320. The *exhibition opens* on Tuesday.

☐ Lovers intent on tying the knot should make their way to the jewellery sale at **Christie's South Kensington** on Tuesday where a good selection of engagement rings is on offer. Examples include a sapphire and diamond cluster ring estimated at £250 to £300, and a diamond single-stone ring at £500 to £600.

☐ Buried among all the samplers and fragments of lace at **Phillips's** textiles auction on Tuesday is a charming late 19th-century travelling bag estimated at £100 to £120. A rare pleated silk "Delphos" dress by the early 20th-century Venetian designer Fortuny is still the ultimate *in* elegance at £5,000 to £6,000.

☐ All life is depicted at **Sotheby's** sale of 19th and 20th-century watercolours and oil paintings in West Sussex on Tuesday — from pretty girls posing outside a rose-covered cottage ("Outside the Cottage" by John Absolon, £400 to £600) to gondoliers expertly steering their crafts down Venetian canals ("A Venetian backwater" by Antonio Reyna, £3,000 to £5,000). The sale also includes the occasional depiction of the wild, such as "Waiting" by Georges Frederic Rotig, in which two lions prepare to pounce on their prey (£4,000 to £6,000).



☐ A couple of years ago the graphic artist Eric Gill gained *notoriety* when a biography depicted him as a sex-addict inclined to committing incest with his daughters. On Wednesday, **Sally Hunter Fine Art** endeavours to restore his reputation as an artist with an exhibition of wood-engravings.

Works range from the somewhat off-putting illustration "Three men hanged", which once graced the margin of an edition of *The Canterbury Tales* (£100), to "The Kiss", a sexy illustration for a 1925 edition of "The Song of Songs" (£400). The show also includes works by Gill's contemporary, David Jones.

☐ **Christie's** celebrates one of the earliest collecting categories of all on Thursday: stamps. The sale focuses on issues from Great Britain, and its highlights include a letter sheet dated 1672 and signed "Charles R", estimated at £800 to £1,000, and a rare 1840 hand-coloured envelope populated with caricatures of early Victorians at £2,000 to £2,500. An amusing lot is a letter from Christie's to a client in London (£200 to £300) containing an after-sales statement to a vendor for *The Crucifixion* by Van Dyck in 1840. Sadly for the vendor, as the contents show, it had not sold.

☐ Some 1,000 cameras have been consigned by one collector at **Christie's** *South Kensington* on Thursday in a sale which amounts to a near-comprehensive history of the camera. Estimates range from £100-£140 for a German Zeiss Ikon Contax camera in its maker's every-ready case, to £2,500-£3,500 for a Japanese Mamiya camera kit, comprising camera, film, box and lenses, all in their maker's box.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

- *The Catto Gallery, 100 Heath Street, London NW3 (0171-435 6660). Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171-839 9060). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-581 7611). The Gallery in Cork Street, 28 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-287 8408). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 6602). Sally Hunter Fine Art Limited, 11 Halkin Arcade, Motcomb Street, London SW1 (0171-235 0934). Sotheby's Sussex, Summers Place, Billingshurst. (01403 783933).*

THE TIMES
A Barcelona break for 20p

Book an adventure holiday from a selection of exciting tours to faraway destinations and *The Times* brings you a special 20p bonus. For the price of Britain's greatest newspaper, you may be entitled to a second holiday—a weekend for two in Paris, Amsterdam, Seville, Barcelona, Vienna, Madrid or Istanbul.

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To take advantage of this promotion you must collect four of the six tokens which are appearing each day until Monday January 30. A selection of our wide range of holidays, cruises and adventure tours appeared last Tuesday. For more details ring our hotline on 01369-707711 and you will receive a comprehensive information pack.

If you choose to spend your weekend break in Barcelona, the departure date is June 3 and you will have to spend at least £1,000 on your main holiday.

Cosmopolitan and dynamic, Barcelona is one of Europe's most exciting cities. Its architectural gems include the eccentric work of the modernist architect Antonia Gaudi and there are 50 art galleries, including museums devoted to Miro and Picasso.

Explore the old Gothic Quarter with its narrow medieval alleys and stroll along the central boulevard, the Ramblas, with its pavement cafes, bars and street-performers. Barcelona has superb restaurants and distinctive regional cuisine.

These two-night city breaks are based at the Hotel Le Meridien Barcelona, on the Ramblas and just a short walk from the Barrio Gothic, the Liceo Opera House, art galleries and theatres.

The elegant five-star hotel has a first-class restaurant, an outdoor patio bar and elegant and spacious rooms. Flights are with Iberia Airlines.

Architectural wonder: Gaudi's Sagrada Familia is still unfinished

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Who gives tuppence?

Giles Gordon wants Public Lending Right improved

In the 12 months to June 30, 1994, loans of books from Britain's public libraries were down on the previous 12 months by 15 million. That is an alarming decline, especially as loans rose by 13 million the previous year. It would seem to indicate that, at last, local and central government's financial bleeding of the public library service has begun to cause the body to show signs of mortality. It may confidently be assumed that the number of loans will again decrease in the 12 months to June 30, 1995.

Undoubtedly, because of their underfunding by local authorities and their increasingly tawdry image, public libraries — closed whenever you try to visit — are not the proud, high-profile institutions they were when Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister. To some extent, the rise of the sophisticated bookselling chains has subtly weakened the do-good element of the libraries. Publishers pricing more and more titles too cheaply must further have diminished the morale and purpose of the so-called "free" library service.

Next month, Public Lending Right makes its twelfth annual pay out to registered authors. The maximum sum per author, regardless of the number of borrowings, is £6,000, and 110 authors will receive as much. In all, 19,388 authors will receive something, but most — 13,902 — a sum between £1 and £99. Is it all worth it, you might ask.

It certainly was — the principle if not the practice — when Brigid Brophy, Maureen Duffy and their allies fought and fought to see PLR enacted on the statute book. This year the funding, which comes from central government, is just under £5m. This is, frankly, derisory when you remember that Martin Amis, bless him, was paid £500,000 for a book and a half, and more "commercial" authors are paid more than £1m for a single novel.

Maybe the Victorian "free" public library is going to become part of our history rather than part of our future. In the 1950s, when I was growing up, I borrowed books from a commercial lending library as well as from our excellent local public library, and people in the book trade are, once more, talking of setting up commercial libraries where readers would be able to obtain quickly the new books which, mostly, they cannot easily borrow from our under-capitalised public libraries, if at all.

Perhaps it is putting the cart before the horse to urge that the Government — which is to say Stephen Dorrell's Department of National Heritage — should increase the funding of PLR fivefold or tenfold. The PLR office in Stockton-on-Tees is run both economically and efficiently, and authors are always welcome to visit and see the computer in action, provided they give notice.

This year almost 5,000 registered authors will receive nothing, either because nobody borrowed their books (a heartrending tale) or, increasingly, because libraries did not have sufficient funds to purchase enough copies for the loans to register on the national borrowings computer. As it is, the rate per loan for next month's payments is 2p.

If a book retails at £15 and the author is paid a ten per cent royalty, he or she should receive £1.50 on each copy sold. The same book would have to be borrowed 75 times for the author to be as well off.

Authors must register first themselves and then their books with the PLR office. The onus is on the writer to register every new book and every new edition that is published or sublicensed by the originating publisher. Authors are increasingly finding that sublicensed editions (educational, paperback, translation) are sneaking into libraries without their even being aware they have been published, or when; and thus, if they do not register these editions that they are ignorant of, they lose PLR.

PLR now has a grand new computer and a database of some 1.4m bibliographical records, according to the 1993-94 annual report. It is humiliating that authors, to earn their 2p per loan, have to remember to don sackcloth and ashes and file new titles or editions each year or, as has just happened to me, lose PLR income for the year of publication when with most titles the borrowings are likely to be greatest.

Graham Lord on the latest carry-on of a fortune-hunting psychopath with a ghostly guardian angel

No gent of Verona

■ MIMI'S GHOST
By Tim Parks
Secker & Warburg, £14.99

PRIZE-winning novelist Tim Parks (Somerset Maugham and Betty Trask Awards) was given such rave reviews for his murderous black comedy thriller *Cara Massimina* — "better than *Silence of the Lambs*", "comparable to Highsmith at her best", "unusually classy" — that he has written this sequel about the same characters.

His hero again is Morris Duckworth, a homicidal young Englishman who lives in Verona, is married to a rich Italian scrubber and somehow keeps killing people — yet after each murder he just escapes justice thanks to some incredible strokes of luck, some inspired lying and the awesome inefficiency of the Italian police and *carabinieri*.

The book sounds like a naughty collaboration between Tom Sharpe and Michael Dibdin but unhappily it reads more like a nasty brawl between Harold Robbins, James Herbert and the scriptwriters of some Ealing farce called *Carry On Up The Castelvecchio*.

In Parks's earlier novel — which was adapted for television by Dennis Potter just before he died — Morris Duckworth was thrown out of Cambridge and desperately teaching English in Verona when he saw his chance of riches and eloped with one of his students, Massimina (Mimi) Trevisan, the daughter of a wealthy Italian family. He pretended to have kidnapped her, demanded a ransom and ended up having to kill her, even though by now he had fallen in love with her.

When this sequel opens Morris has married Mimi's insatiably randy older sister Paola to keep his hands on the Trevisan family fortune, but it is a marriage he regrets because Paola is a kinky slut and he is still in love with Mimi.

Mimi, it seems, is also still in love with him, despite being dead, and soon Morris finds himself discussing his problems with her ghost on his mobile telephone and acting on her advice. She has become his guardian angel.

Her guidance leads him to murder his Italian brother-in-law as well as the nympho Paola and her wonderfully well-hung black lover — and each time Mimi's whispering ghost manages to get Morris out of trouble. Her undying love for him is so strong that he comes to believe that he can cleanse his soul and be Born Again, despite the fact that he is obviously a raving homicidal psychopath.

Unfortunately none of this sardonic tomfoolery is at all convincing, despite the regular barrage of Italian *expressioni* and *dialogo* and the book's obvious literary *pretensioni*. Every character is deeply unattractive and the jokes tend to consist of sleazy, explicit sexual references.

The book ends with an ominous hint that Parks intends now to hitch his serial killer hero to the third, last and ugliest of the Trevisan sisters and to subject us to a threequel. No more, please. Enough. *Basta!*

At "the prom": looters run off with their electronic booty from a hi-fi shop during the Los Angeles riots in April 1992

On the side of the Angelinos

■ TRANSLATING LA — A Tour of the Rainbow City
By Peter Theroux
W. W. Norton, £16.95

IN this acute and energetic book, Peter Theroux weighs into some old Los Angeles clichés and takes an especially well-aimed swipe at a newer one — that the city of all our tomorrows has somehow become honorary capital of the Third World. "A sly insult" is what Theroux calls this, and as an Arabist who took on LA after ten years in the Middle East, he can probably claim to know.

His Rainbow City is the parlous ethnic puzzle that threatened to fall apart in 1992's April riots. But it is also a city of strivers; of eager wannabe Americans, not victims on the one hand, nor "mellow airheads" on the other. Theroux agrees with E. Randol Schoenberg (the composer's son) that "the world already has a Europe, a Korea, an Iran and Mexico. People come to Los Angeles to be somewhere else".

Translating LA boasts few startling revelations of its own, which given its sprawling subject is probably wise. What it does offer is a bracing contemporary dose of old-fashioned boosterism.

Theroux arrives as a wary East Coaster, cruises LA with an eclectic bunch of mainly Middle Eastern hosts and guests, and has a blast. He is also fully booted-up on the details of West Coast history. Thus do we learn that the city's first homicide victim was a woman whose skull was bashed in 9,000 years ago near the La Brea tarpits and that Beverly Hills was founded by hillbillies; that you can buy abysmal filmscripts from Santa Monica's beggars, and that South Central's hip black teenagers refer to the 1992 riots as "the prom".

That "capital of the Third World" label was coined by David Reiff, who used it as the subtitle for his LA book. Theroux's is funnier, more revealing, more wide-ranging and a good deal less pretentious. It is also just as well-observed as much of his more famous older brother's work. No mean achievement.

GILES WHITTELL

Bully for a tough sheila

Libby Purves admires the doughty tale of an outback survivor

■ FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH
By Sara Henderson
Pan, £9.99

A MIDDLE-AGED woman in a bush hat and a slick of perspiration stares from the cover of Sara Henderson's autobiography. A big Aussie outback sheila, you might think: just the type to break a crocodile's jaw, to ride and rope and muster with the boys, and put up with living 500 miles from nowhere in the red dust of the Northern Territory. Tough lady. Since our own wimpish urban culture wastes the word "courage" on people who are merely overcoming ordinary setbacks, and thinks Joanna Lumley was ever so brave to spend a week on an island with only a film crew for company, we might well pass by this book. That would be a pity.

Because, in the tired genre of triumph-over-tragedy autobiographies, this is an unexpected classic. Henderson — whom I met last week and found to be a rather gentle, wistful, unassuming lady once deprived of her bush hat — prefaces it with calendar mottoes about "creating a dream" and finding "the strength within you", but she need not have spelt it out. The story — refreshingly told without a ghost-writer, in plain downright Aussie language — makes its point quite well enough. As she puts it, if there is not a light at the end of the tunnel, you flaming well stride out there and light it yourself.

The young Sara was a tennis-mad girl of 23, without much of a clue about life, when she married Charles Henderson III. He was a war hero 20 years her senior, with an approach to his private life strongly reminiscent of the late Robert Maxwell. Her first draft of the book skimmed over his multiple infidelities, financial shenanigans and family bullying; eventually, she decided the story would be incomplete without the domestic uproar. No Betty Maxwell, she resisted the bullying with spirit, defended her children and occasionally threw him out; but the marriage endured until his death eight years ago.

After his Manila shipping business went bust in 1965, Charlie had moved his young wife and babies to a tin shed in a million acres of wild cattle country, the Bullo River station. After a brief depression, she coped: worked the station with him, socked crocs, raised the family and gritted her teeth over his behaviour.

When he died, he left her debts and lawsuits and apparently no hope. Henderson — despite a grief and shock which are palpable in her spare, unselfpitying prose — fought back by playing the Stock Exchange with extraordinary luck and made enough to keep going. She ploughed it back into improving the cattle, and in five years was running a profitable station.

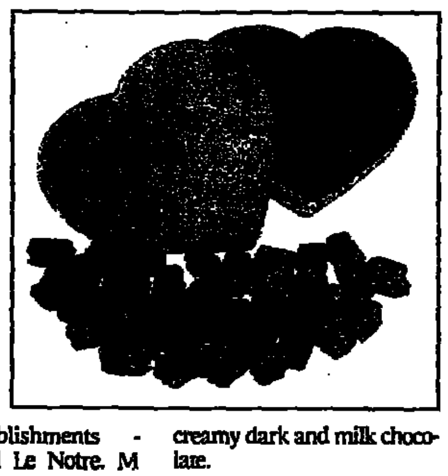
Named Businesswoman of the Year, she became a cult figure (voted the most trustworthy woman in Australia in a poll, courted by two political parties) and wrote this autobiography. She dedicates it to Charlie: its last words are "God how I loved you, you son-of-a-bitch, Yankee bastard!".

You couldn't make it up, you really couldn't.

THE TIMES VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL OFFER

Champagne Truffles

The good taste way to show someone you really care



Here's a delicious way to win the heart of a friend on Valentine's Day: a magnificent box of chocolate truffles made with *marc de champagne*.

These are no ordinary chocolates. They are the *grand cru* of tastes.

The slightly crunchy outer shell is in the French-style Valrhona chocolate (a blend of sun-dried Trinitario and Forastero ground and roasted cocoa beans). This style was perfected by Thierry Dumouchel, a *maitre patissier*, while working with two leading Paris establishments - Fauchon and Le Notre. M Dumouchel has recently launched Norwood House Truffles of Yorkshire. Inside each chocolate is a mouth-watering combination of creamy dark and milk chocolate.

The chocolates - 250 grams in weight - come in a red velvet heart-shaped presentation box, complete with compliment slip.

After dipping in, the chocolates are best kept in an airtight container in the fridge to preserve the delicate flavours. Bring them back to room temperature before dipping in again.

To ensure delivery for Valentine's Day, orders must be received by February 6 at the latest.

HOW TO ORDER

By post: please complete and return the coupon with your remittance to: The Times Valentine Offer, PO Box 333, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD.

By telephone: holders of Access/Visa cards can order direct on 0525 851945 (24 hours). For enquiries only, call 0525 853399.

THE TIMES
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Orders received by February 6, 1995 will be despatched in time for Valentines Day. Offer valid within mainland UK only. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. The Times cannot be responsible for returned goods lost in transit. You may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate, please tick here ☐

Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet papers

Derwent May reviews the critics

4/5 War dances? Hostilities have already erupted over Anthony Powell's *Journals 1982-1986* (Heinemann, £20). A. N. Wilson in the *Evening Standard* thought they were as "richly enjoyable as his novel sequence, *A Dance to the Music of Time*. Grotesque characters drift in and out of them, and the accuracy and mercilessness with which he dissects his contemporaries will make this an infinitely re-readable volume."

In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Hugh Massingberd found them "a feast of dry wit, measured irony, quirky anecdote, literary wisdom and spicy opinion, from our greatest living writer in his 90th year." In the *TLS*, D. J. Taylor defended Powell's tone of voice: "What looks like haughtiness is a peculiarly delicate form of understatement". But Hugh Thomas in *The Times*, though he admired the novels, found the journals full of "dull labelling" — it was "a mistake to publish them" without revising them; while Nicholas Shakespeare in *The Literary Review* complained that "this diarist appears to have a conviction of his own absolute rightness in everything".
Col cms: 115

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£15.99	0	1
2	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS **David Attenborough** *(BBC)*	£17.99	10	2
3	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£17.50	1	12
4	LONG WALK TO FREEDOM **Nelson Mandela** *(Little Brown)*	£20	2	4
5	THE CRUSADES **Terry Jones** *(BBC)*	£17.99	0	1
6	BATTLE FLAG **Bernard Cornwell** *(HarperCollins)*	£9.99	6	2
7	INSOMNIA **Stephen King** *(Hodder)*	£15.99	5	7
8	INTERESTING TIMES **Terry Pratchett** *(Collancz)*	£14.99	0	5
9	DAMON HILL'S GRAND PRIX YEAR **Damon Hill** *(Macmillan)*	£20	0	2
10	GEOFF HAMILTON'S COTTAGE GARDENS **Geoff Hamilton** *(BBC)*	£18.99	0	1

PAPERBACK

1	AN IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCE **Mary Wesley** *(Black Swan)*	£5.99	1	2
2	FLAT STOMACH PLAN **Rosemary Conley** *(Arrow)*	£7.99	4	2
3	OTHER PEOPLE'S MARRIAGES **Rosie Thomas** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	8	2
4	COPPERHEAD **Bernard Cornwell** *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	0	1
5	MEN AT ARMS **Terry Pratchett** *(Corgi)*	£4.99	5	8
6	INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE **Anne Rice** *(Warner)*	£4.99	19	2
7	LIFE POINTS **Peter Cox & Peggy Brusseau** *(Bloomsbury)*	£4.99	0	1
8	STARGATE **Sean Devlin** *(Signet)*	£4.99	6	2
9	DECIDER **Dick Francis** *(Pan)*	£4.99	12	4
10	BIRDSONG **Sebastian Faulks** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	7	23
11	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW **Peter Høeg** *(Flamingo)*	£5.99	2	12
12	TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE: TEN POEMS **W. H. Auden** *(Faber)*	£2.50	9	13
13	THE POWER **Colin Forbes** *(Pan)*	£4.99	11	2
14	BRAVO TWO ZERO **Andy McNab** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	15	17
15	HIDDEN CITY: TAMULI BOOK 3 **David Eddings** *(HarperCollins)*	£9.99	0	1
16	THE ROBBER BRIDE **Margaret Atwood** *(Virgo)*	£5.99	16	10
17	AGAINST A DARK BACKGROUND **Iain Banks** *(Orbit)*	£5.99	14	2
18	THE FERMATA **Nicholson Baker** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	13	2
19	COMPLICITY **Iain Banks** *(Abacus)*	£6.99	10	17
20	COLD COMFORT FARM **Stella Gibbons** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	3	2

Any book from this list can be ordered from
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Born under a good sign

■ THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF BIRTHDAYS: Personology Profiles for Each Day of the Year
By Gary Goldschneider
Michael Joseph, £20.00

AS a gift-book idea, *The Secret Language of Birthdays* has a small problem: for most people who acquire it, only a tiny fraction of its 832 pages will be of any interest. For this huge book, beautifully produced, aspires to provide a character portrait for every birthday of the year. You can see the logic of the marketing angle: everyone has a birthday. The negative side, however, is that nobody except the Queen and Paddington Bear has more than one.

Anyway, look up January 28, and this is what you get. First, an epigraph ("The Day of Outstanding Achievements") under a little woodcut illustration. In many of the 366 cases this woodcut is inspirational; but for today it appears to be a gigantic cabbage. There then follow 400 words about the temperament of the January 28 "personology" (as distinct from personality), derived partly from astrology and partly from observation of the birthday celebrities, which in this case include Colette, Arthur Rubinstein and an unhelpful assortment of American sportsmen.

Then there are sections on January 28's numerology, tarot, and health. The advice for today is pithy ("Keep hold of the tiger's tail"), and the whole thing ends with a "meditation" and some notes on strengths and weaknesses. But where does the cabbage fit in?

The tumbler: tarot card

This is a classy and ingenious production, but the claims of the author remain a tad suspicious. How could a lone researcher possibly "analyse" the several thousand people Gary Goldschneider reckons he has considered? Further, isn't it daft not to adjust the birthdays of people born in Britain before the calendar changed in 1752?

Noticeably, there is no "Day of the Loser" in Goldschneider's cosmos: the provision of 366 different encouraging epigraphs is a considerable achievement. Adolf Hitler's birthday, April 20, is given as "The Day of Worldly Challenge", which is certainly a diplomatic way of putting it. "Don't go off the deep end," runs the advice (let's call it the benefit of hindsight). "Try to be more accepting and less touchy. A quiet confidence lessens your need to prove yourself."

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Joseph Goebbels: image maker of the Third Reich

■ GOEBBELS
By Ralf Georg Reuth
Constable, £12.95

Jospeh Goebbels was one of Hitler's earliest and most faithful acolytes — his propagandist, his image-maker, his Gauleiter of Berlin. A merciless prophet of total war, scorched earth, and the final solution, it was Goebbels who gave us the visual images of Nazi Germany that persist today. The rallies, the torchlight processions, the forests of banners, were integral to his political philosophy: that a belief, simply presented and endlessly repeated could enthuse a people to overcome all obstacles.

Drawing on the full range of diaries that became available after the fall of the Berlin wall, Reuth fleshes out the established portrait of a club-footed, fawning anti-Semite who worshipped Hitler and abused a string of young actresses in his subsidiary role as movie mogul of the Reich.

He occasionally tries too hard for explanations — the anti-Semitism is attributed by turns to youthful rows with a half-Jewish girlfriend, and rejection of his literary efforts by Jewish publishers. Mere physical disability can never account for the misanthropy of a man whose final words to his own staff were "now your little throats are being cut".

Simultaneously engaging and revolting, this biography exemplifies the truism that there are some things which will always be beyond explanation.

■ HUNGRY
By Jane Barry
Black Swan, £6.99

In the identikit suburb of Potter's Park, plump Mrs Maggie Hapgood is buying sausages in Shop-Kwik, when she is approached by the hard-bitten executives of Granny Garfunkel Foods and invited to become their Super Slimmer of the Year. Maggie's pounds drop off and her self-esteem is momentarily raised by the attentions of Spike Bentley, advertising lothario, but in the end her 15 minutes of fame turn out as blandly insubstantial as one of Granny Garfunkel's no-calorie chocolate gateaux. Barry's fine ear for dialogue, whether arid executive-speak or the cosy vernacular of the suburbs, gives this pacy novel its satirical bite.

■ THE MAN IN THE ICE
By Konrad Spindler
Phoenix, £7.99

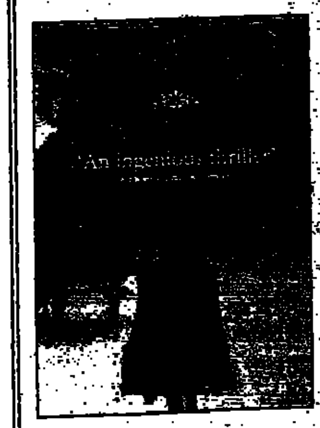
When two hikers found a yellowing corpse in September 1991, Konrad Spindler's revelation that it was a 5000-year-old neolithic hunter stunned the archaeological world. The ice also threw up tools, weapons, footwear, even medicines. This fascinating book recreates the excitement of one of the most important finds of the century. It suggests how the iceman came to be in such an inhospitable region, and how he died there, and pieces together the clearest picture we yet have of the life of Stone Age man.

■ THE CARRETA
By B. Traven
Allison & Busby, £7.99

The author of this unusual novel lived in Mexico, and still remains unidentified. He describes in almost loving detail the oppressive life of Mexican peasants at the turn of the century, but with language so steeped in bitter irony that the reader cannot fail to predict the coming revolution. The painful political awakening of the central character provides the minimal narrative element to what is in effect a brilliant analysis of how, in an illiterate nation, cultural inertia holds back the forces of change.

■ ON TOP OF THE WORLD
By Rebecca Stephens
Pan, £5.99

An exhilarating first-person account of the grueling series of events which over four years transformed Rebecca Stephens from a humble journalist to a dedicated mountaineer, the first British woman to conquer Everest, to stand for a few precious moments upon the summit of the Earth. The story of her long physical and psychological preparation is told with clarity, passion and humour. It is a witness to her own endurance and to the professionalism of her fellow climbers. But the main character in this book is Everest itself, with its cruel and glittering beauty. Despite all the prosaic technicalities of the trip, the reader cannot help but be infused with a sense of awe.



■ THE ALIENIST
By Caleb Carr
Little Brown, £7.99

A serial killer stalks the streets of New York, cutting out the eyes of young rent boys. Yet another routine crime thriller you may think, and you would be wrong. For what elevates this inventive debut above the usual mediocrity of the genre is that it is set in the 1890s, a period in which significant advances in forensic science, such as fingerprinting, were first being made. Carr uses these new developments to thrilling effect as the forensic psychologist or "alienist" Laszlo Kreizler pursues his exhausted prey across the teeming, insalubrious streets of New York at the *fin de siècle*.

■ THE SEARCH
By Geoff Dyer
Penguin, £5.99

The first 20 pages of this short novel read like a rather banal detective story, but they're deliberately misleading as it's nothing of the sort. Attracted to a beautiful woman at a party, ex-convict Walker agrees to try and find her estranged husband, Malory. But what begins as a search for a missing person becomes an increasingly dangerous quest for something far more elusive. As the trail leads Walker through a surreal landscape of grotesque modern cities, everything assumes a cryptic, allegorical significance. But the ending, after so much mystery, is unsatisfying.

● *Contributors: Giles Coren, Lucy Lethbridge, Alexander Ross, Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Jason Cowley, Nicki Household*

Alienated earthlings

Nigel Hawkes on Oliver Sacks's travels in the infinite complexities of the human mind

THE individual case study, once a mainstay of the medical journals, has tended to fade away under the assault of the double-blind trial. Today we are disinclined to believe that truth can emerge from a single patient: we demand hundreds, or thousands, treated by doctors who, like justice, must don the blindfold in order to be impartial.

Oliver Sacks is an engaging exception to this rule. Born in London, he is now a professor of neurology at Albert Einstein College in New York, and has made a reputation with books in which he describes the often-bizarre symptoms of patients he has treated. The cases make fascinating reading, because Sacks is a sympathetic clinician who uses his patients' problems as a launch pad for wider speculations about the nature of mind.

His latest book continues the tradition. In it we read about a colour-blind painter, a woman without the power of emotion, a man almost blind from birth who was given the power of sight at 50, and a surgeon who suffers from Tourette's syndrome, a brain disorder characterised by sudden interjections and sharp, involuntary movements.

Nothing, one might think, would disqualify one more completely from the operating theatre than an inability to control one's limbs. But Dr Carl Bennett, who skips on every fifth step, mutters strange phrases and makes sudden lunges towards the ground as if to pick something up, is as steady as a rock when he operates.

Sacks: sympathetic clinician

■ AN ANTHROPOLOGIST ON MARS: Seven Paradoxical Tales
By Oliver Sacks
Picador, £15.99

Dr Bennett is a brilliant diagnostician, and a skilful surgeon. "Most of the time when I'm operating, it never even crosses my mind that I have Tourette's," he told Sacks. "And I've never had an accident driving."

The book owes its title to the case of a woman, Temple Grandin, who suffers from autism and cannot comprehend nor feel emotion. When meeting people, she can only work out how to react by copying others, a process that makes her feel like an anthropologist on Mars. The disability has not prevented her becoming a successful veterinarian, an assistant professor in the Animal Sciences department at Colorado State University.

Sacks's descriptions of these cases, and the others in the book, are both medical and literary. He writes with a moving directness and simplicity, his obvious sympathy acquitting him of any charge that he might be exploiting the misfortunes of others. These other forms of life, he asserts, are no less human for being so different.

Once caught by the strange tales Sacks tells, the reader learns some interesting truths about the world and the way we perceive it. The final effect is not of peeping guiltily at a gallery of unfortunates, as it might so easily have been, but of wonder at the infinite variety of the human mind and experience.

Snow white: winter scene by the Austrian photographer Erwin Traunmüller, from *Photography Yearbook 1995: Sixtieth Anniversary Edition* (Fountain Press, £19.95), edited by Peter Wilkinson

Michael Dobbs concludes his parliamentary potboiler with his scheming Prime Minister caught up in a foreign affair

Urquhart's swansong

THIS final work in the Francis Urquhart trilogy suffers from the Inspector Morse syndrome: it is almost impossible to review purely as a novel; television keeps intervening. Ian Richardson's Urquhart, like John Thaw's Morse, is now part of the national psyche. The phrase, "I couldn't possibly comment", has entered the popular language, and whenever it is said, the infinitesimal curl of Richardson's lip, the almost-smile dripping with cynicism and conspiracy, comes inevitably to mind.

The Final Cut shows every sign of being designed with the television series in mind. The plot is simple and effective, the characters (other than Urquhart) not too deep or complex, the political machinations devious but easy to follow. The book is thoroughly entertaining; as, I am sure, the television series will be. Purely as a novel, though, *The Final Cut* is not as persuasive as its predecessors.

Urquhart has now been Prime Minister almost as long as Mrs Thatcher; he badly wants to be the longest serving PM of the century, to be remembered at least for that. The country, though, is restless, ready for change; so are some of his own ministers.

■ THE FINAL CUT
By Michael Dobbs
HarperCollins, £14.99

Urquhart is tired, more interested in the reputation and legacy he is to leave behind than in the day-to-day running of the nation. He is still unmatched at political intriguing, but it no longer elates him.

Two events converge to threaten his immediate future. A hitherto loyal minister turns enemy, and there is an unexpected international crisis — unrest in Cyprus on the eve of a peace treaty between the warring factions.

The two previous Urquhart books were firmly contained in the world of Westminster; the occasional forays to Buckingham Palace or to party conferences were an extension of the parliamentary corridors. Dobbs knows those corridors intimately, and his novels filled the reader with the sense of being a party to his inside track. *The Final Cut*, though, goes foreign, and the Cypriot dimension — an important element in the book — is nowhere as convincing. Dobbs is not nearly as comfortable outside the English political scene as he is within it. Cyprus intrudes too much, and as a result *The Final Cut* has a more fragmented, less claustrophobic feel than his other books, which is not to its advantage.

Urquhart, though, even in his more subdued, reflective mood, is a joy, and the wonderful games he plays, distributing power, ruining careers and marriages, and plotting little wars within Cabinet and Parliament, have lost none of their repulsive attraction. But it is right that Dobbs and Urquhart have ended their splendid partnership.

MARCEL BERLINS

Ian Richardson as the machiavellian PM

Turncoat joins the rebs

FLATTERING as it may be, it is not always a wholly good thing when something successful over here ends up even more successful over there. I mean, of course, in America.

Which is why I was initially dismayed when the man who brought the Napoleonic wars to life in *Sharpe's Rifles* defected to the United States for his already highly successful chronicles of Nate Starbuck's adventures in the American Civil War.

Of course, Cornwell has been living in America for some time now and is married to an American, so the move was probably inevitable. I suspect, however, that the hugely lucrative American market may have been the determining factor.

To be fair, Cornwell did not so much defect to the United States as to the Confederacy, since he has gamely placed Starbuck on the losing side. But I suspect that, given the politically correct views expressed on the race issue by the hero, somehow he may yet end up turning coat before the saga is finished. We are, after all, only on the third Starbuck book, and there were 12 Sharpes.

The revival of the historical novel aimed primarily at men owes much to George Macdonald Fraser's magnificent resurrection of Flashman, villain of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, to be the anti-hero of his continuing romp through 19th-century history. Cornwell's tales are more straightforward, in that the chief character is less of an utter bounder. But the attractions are similar: historical veracity and the bringing to life of often little-known episodes in great military dramas. His chief skill lies in descriptions of battles, capturing simultaneously the gory chaos of human conflict and the way in which it is afterwards assimilated into an appearance of order.

The cameos of generals "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E. Lee are well-drawn, if sparse. What adds spice is the soap-opera twists of plot concerning rivalry and reconciliation between the main characters, with fathers and sons on opposing sides. The "battle flag" of the title is a banner demanded by Starbuck's Northern hellfire preacher father as tribute for his Boston congregation's donations to the Yankee cause. It is fetched for him from his son's Southern regiment by a Northern cavalry officer who is himself the son of Starbuck's aristocratic Southern commander.

It sounds contorted, but by making the internecine, almost incestuous, conflict literal, Cornwell makes valid points about the horrors of civil war with echoes, for anyone looking, that resound in modern Bosnia.

PETER MILLAR

Cornwell: American exile

■ BATTLE FLAG
By Bernard Cornwell
HarperCollins, £9.99

Rag-pickers of a hidden history

THREE years ago, the enviably prolific novelist, short-story writer and dramatist, Susan Hill, selected the content of *The Penguin Anthology of Modern Women's Short Stories*. Perhaps not wanting to repeat herself, she has titled this current collection "Contemporary", which some of the stories clearly are not, if one takes contemporary to mean belonging to the same time as we live in.

Among the period pieces are Daphne Du Maurier's "The Pool", first published in 1959 but written in that Edwardian drawing-room style that makes Du Maurier's prose powerful, self-conscious and rather old-fashioned. "The Pool" is about a young girl on the edge of puberty, a muddle of lurching hormones and heightened perceptions. Judy Corbalis, whose story, "The Bridesmaid", was written in 1991, works a similar theme but from a less sombre aspect. Her 11-year-old heroine, Mary, disturbingly discovers that adult life is encoded and furtive, crowded with questions whose answers she dreads hearing.

Girls and women in varying states of mind fill the pages of this anthology absorbingly, from the flutteringly unsound to the bleakly sane, from the doughtily resigned to the glowingly triumphant. Ellen Gilchrist, whose recent novels have been disappointing, makes a stunning appearance here with "Revenge", set in America during the Second World War. Ten-year-old Rhoda, shunned by her brother and male cousins, refuses to be moulded into a sugar-sweet Southern Belle by her female relations. Her aim is to get even with the boys. Giving her account of this early victory, the adult Rhoda admits, "Sometimes, I think whatever has happened since has been of no real interest to me".

Gilchrist is just one of the North American and Canadian writers who provide the high spots of the collection. The stories by Mavis Gallant, Mary Gordon, Alice Munro, Grace Paley and Sylvia Plath are masterpieces in miniature. Plath's "The Fifteen Dollar Eagle", although written at about the same time as "The Pool", is as fresh and zingy as new paint.

Annoyingly, we are not given any biographical data on the writers, which any book calling itself an anthology should feel obliged to provide, but the stories are satisfyingly wide-ranging, evidence that women are our remembrancers, scrabbling through the past like rag-pickers and reassembling their secret history in remarkable feats of story telling.

PENNY PERRICK

■ CONTEMPORARY WOMEN'S SHORT STORIES
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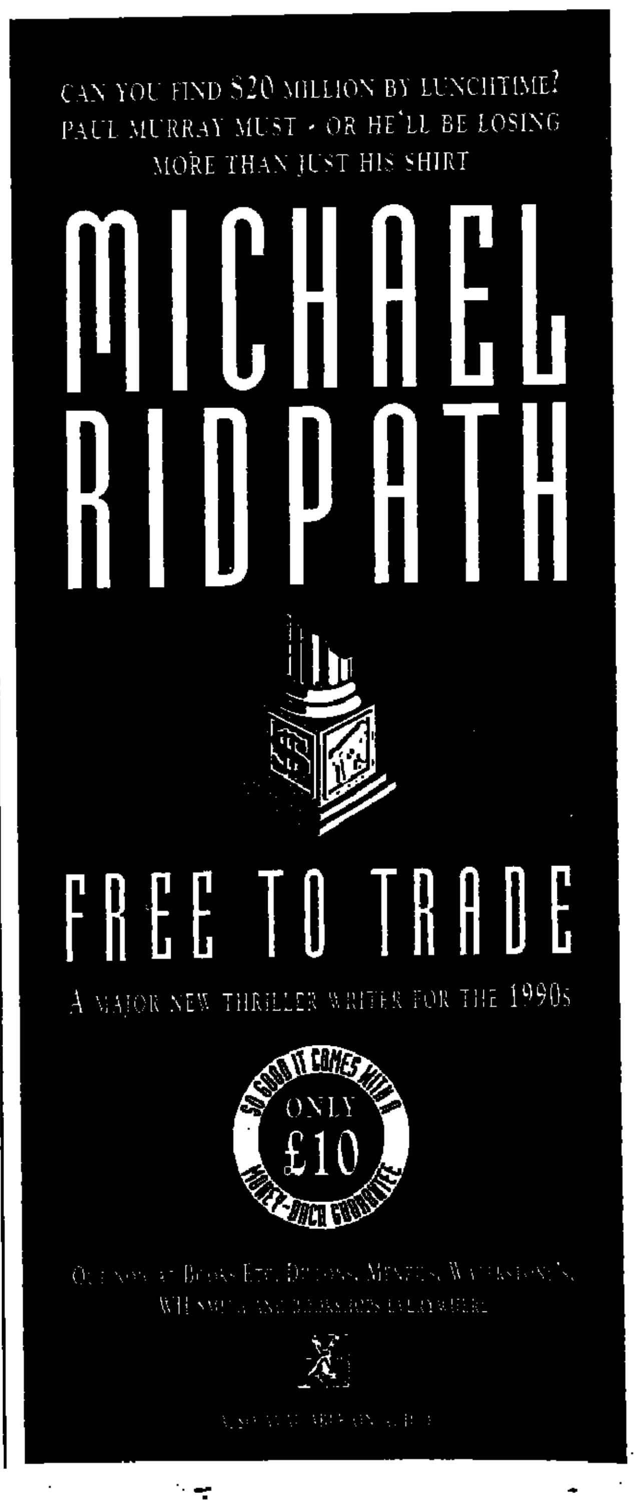

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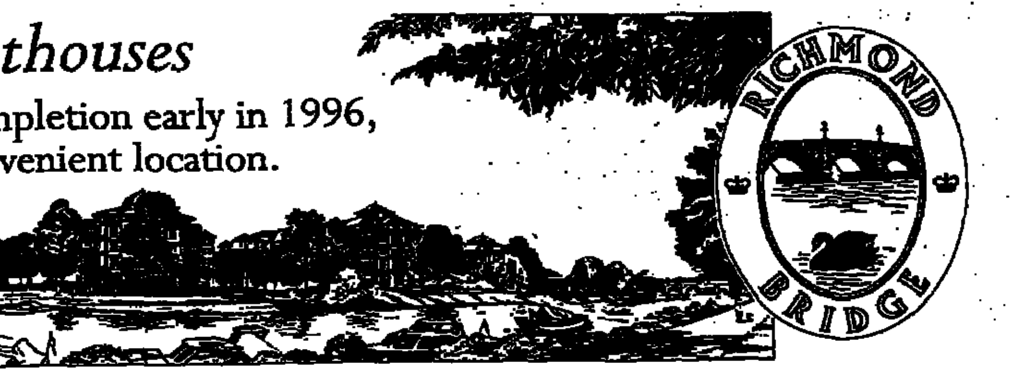

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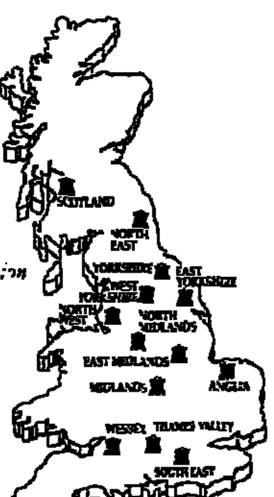

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BRITAIN'S BEST EXHIBITION FOR HOMES IN FRANCE

Let the buyer beware those hidden costs

A structural survey can save home seekers money and heartache, says **Cheryl Taylor**

'Bit of damp, a few roof tiles missing, not much wrong here," the estate agent assured us as we viewed the 1930s three-bedroom chalet-style house in Petts Wood, a sleepy suburb on the south eastern edge of London, just nudging Kent. Indeed, the sales particulars stated that the property, a building society repossession, was in need of "some general maintenance work".

It had to be a bargain at £115,000. Admittedly the house had seen better days, but with good bones and plenty of original features, it seemed ideal — at least it would be when we had finished with it. Or so we thought.

A home-buyers' survey from the Alliance and Leicester Building Society later revealed serious structural defects, including a warped roof, bulging walls, wet rot, rising damp, and rampant woodworm, requiring an expenditure of more than £10,000. In the event, we did not buy the house.

The surveyor, David Gordon of Baxters, chartered surveyors in Beckenham, pointed out that such defects would probably not have shown up in a building society's mortgage valuation report. "It has to be one of the worst cases I have ever come across. But to discover the most serious defects the surveyor would have to get into the roof space, which he would not do for a valuation alone."

Only one in five homebuyers bother to take professional advice about the structural condition of the property they hope to purchase before handing over the money. Many assume that if the building society approves the mortgage then the house is free from defects. Clearly this may not be the case.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) reports that 80 per cent of home buyers unwisely rely on a building society valuation report, which is little more than a brief visual inspection.

Since they are spending so much money on solicitor's and estate agent's fees, most buyers take the view that a survey, costing between £300 and £500 on a three-bedroom house, is simply an unnecessary expense. If the seller backs out or accepts another offer, the surveyor's fee is money down the drain.

For some, the gamble doesn't pay off. The custom of *caveat emptor* (let the buyer beware) prevails, despite the protection offered to home buyers under the Property Misdescriptions Act 1993. This legislation, designed to stem the flow of estate agents' hyperbole, concerns itself more with the accuracy of pricing, room dimensions and the property's position and surroundings rather than its structural condition.

Banks and building societies are required to spell out the differences between a mortgage valuation — the price at which the valuer thinks the property would sell for on the open market and which merely satisfies the lender that it would get its money back if the buyer reneged on the payments — and a condition or structural survey, which alerts the purchaser to potential and actual defects.

A mortgage valuation is a legal requirement, made solely for the benefit of the bank or building society in order to decide how much money can be advanced against a loan — even though the buyer has to pay for it at between £155 and £175 on a house costing £100,000.

Most lenders are now willing to show purchasers a copy of this valuation report. But it won't give you much consolation if you later find subsidence or dry rot. You might be able to sue the surveyor, of course, for not discovering that the house has a major structural defect, but it can take years of expensive legal wrangling before you get any compensation.

A more detailed report — somewhere between a valuation and a full structural survey — can also be arranged by the building society.

> '80 per cent of buyers unwisely rely on valuation reports'

This is the home buyers' survey and includes a condition report and a valuation fee. Abbey National will charge about £175 on a £60,000 purchase and £395 on a £150,000 property. Costs vary from one lender to another, with regional variations.

One snag is that this report will only comment on those parts of the property that are visible or easily accessible. The surveyor checks all the main items such as the structure, plumbing and wiring, but it lacks the detail of a full structural survey.

A full structural survey is advisable, especially if you are buying an older (pre-1900) or larger property. This will cost between £300 and £500 on a house with three bedrooms, but even this report will not comment on every part of the property. Sometimes it safeguards the surveyor by making comments like "floor joists could not be fully inspected owing to fitted carpets".

The surveyor might not be willing to prise up fitted carpets, lift floorboards, poke plasterwork or shift furniture, particularly if the house is occupied. He might suggest getting the owner's consent for a thorough investigation, especially if he suspects damp, dry rot or blocked drains. He may even suggest a specialist to carry out the operation.

Nevertheless, a full structural survey can help slice noughts off the asking price if it reveals that the buyer will have to meet unexpected additional expenditure on the house.

Sound advice is given by Worcestershire-based chartered surveyor Ian Morris, who not only undertakes surveys for home buyers on a regular basis but also lectures to professional colleagues on the subject. He says: "When you commission a surveyor, discuss with him the extent of his report. Find out exactly what this will include and, perhaps more importantly, not include and how much it is likely to cost."

Even the RICS does not specify exactly what is to be included in a structural survey. It is up to individual surveyors to decide on the scope and content of their reports. "Disputes with surveyors or dissatisfaction with their surveys usually arise where there has been a misunderstanding over what the client expected and what the surveyor set out to provide", Mr Morris says.

Fees are negotiable, based on the amount of time taken to travel to the house, inspect it and prepare a report, as well as on the age, size and type of property. You should make sure the surveyor is qualified and a member of either the RICS or the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

Perhaps the time has come for some sort of seller's survey. How much easier it would be to buy and sell homes if each property was offered with a recognised certificate of quality, such as the AA check on used cars. Chartered surveyors generally believe the idea is unworkable, that buyers will not trust a vendor's survey, and in any case building societies might still require their own surveys.

A London estate agent, John D. Wood, already operates a logbook scheme for homeowners, recording the history of the house and its maintenance, including details such as when the new boiler was installed and any guarantees. It is intended to show a homeowner's care of the property, similar to a vehicle service record.

The client pays from £350 for two inspections a year of the property by a surveyor who prepares a report on the condition of the house, recommending work where necessary. Chartered surveyor David Nicholson of John D. Wood believes this will ensure that the property remains in good condition and that the record will be of assistance when the house is sold.

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HEATHFIELD GDNS, SW18 £775,000
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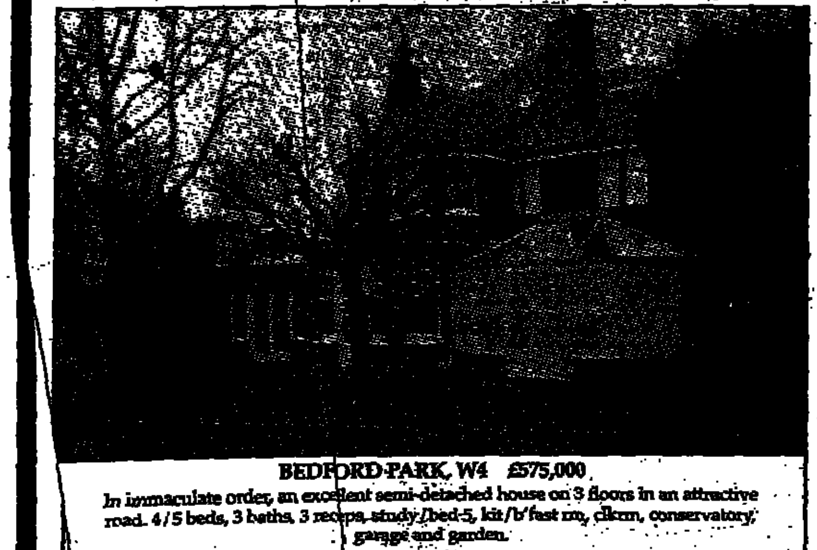

BEDFORD PARK, W4 £575,000
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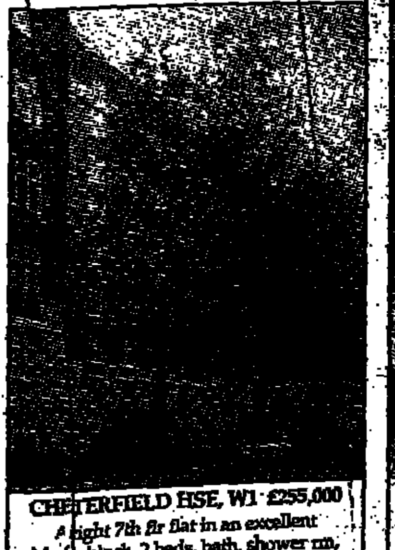

CHESTERFIELD HSE, W1 £255,000
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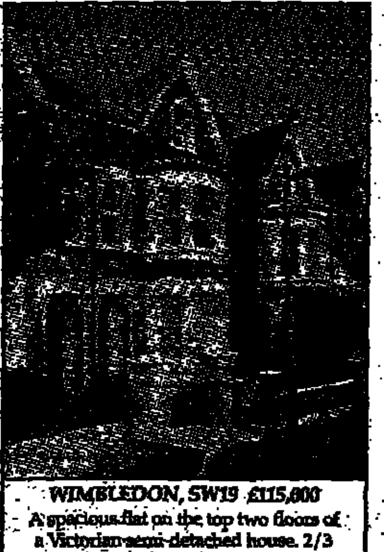

WIMBLEDON, SW19 £115,000
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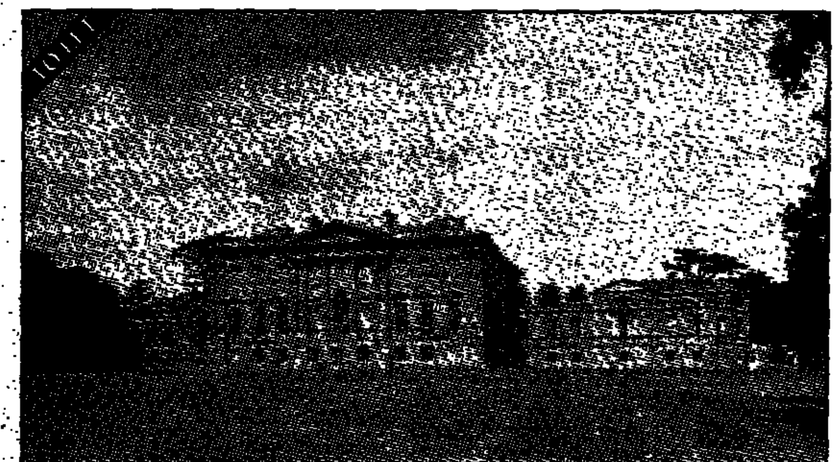

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RENTALS

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MARLBOROUGH ST, SW3 £750 p.w.
A spacious and modern house on 3 floors only with 4 bedrooms (2 double), 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen. Furnished

CENTRAL LONDON: 0171-491 4311

GLOUCESTER PLACE, NW1 £250 p.w.
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BURDETT MEWS, NW3 £500 p.w.
A newly built mews house with stripped wood floors on the ground floor and a garage. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception room, kitchen. Furnished

NORTH LONDON: 0171-722 3336

WIMBLEDON, SW19 £415 p.w.
A well proportioned end-of-terrace house by the All England Tennis Club. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kit, double garage. Unfurnished
WIMBLEDON: 0181-946 9447

CATERHAM, SURREY £1,800 p.c.m.
A large family house in a quiet situation within walking distance of the station. 5/6 beds (2 with showers), bath, 4 receps, kit, b'fast rm, conservatory, gdn. Unfurnished
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SUSSEX
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EAST GRINSTEAD: 01342 326326

WILTSHIRE
Nr Chippenham
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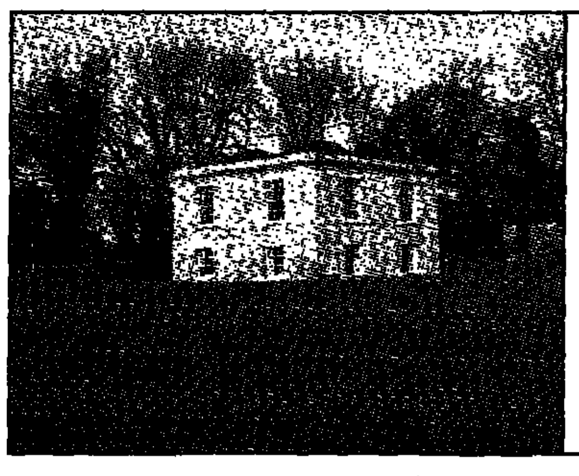
Price Guide: £215,000

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244



HAMPSHIRE
Farley Chamberlayne
In a glorious rural position, a listed former Semaphore house with just over an acre of garden. 4 beds, bath, 2 shower rms, 3 receps, kit/b'fast rm, outbuildings, garage.

Price Guide: *£350,000*

WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

KENT
Ickham
In a rural village near Canterbury, a Grade II* 15th century house. 5 beds, 3 baths, 3 receps, kit/b'fast rm, outbuildings, barn, paddock. About 1.8 acres. JSA: Cluttons 01227 457441.

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LADIES

A pretty physio 48 slim 5'6" warm tactile fun n/s seeks slim sensitive arts loving male 48-58 S.Herts/Lond. Photo Box 3061

ARE you at a loose end chaps? We are a group of unattached professional business men and women aged 35-55 who meet informally mostly in London for meals/theatre/events. Bills split equally. Interested? Please Reply to Box No 3212

ATTRACTIVE lady, 5'10", dark eyes, n/s, single, 48, GSOH with a good heart interested in cinema, music, walks, going out and staying in, travelling, animals seeks tall, honest, thoughtful gentleman with GSOH for caring, sharing and possible future. Photo appreciated. London based.Box No 3018

ATTRACTIVE lady, 37, pub. sch. ed., done the travel and adventure, now seeks partner in life, 35-45 for companionship and more Interests inc. politics (conserv.), history, antiques, countryside, evenings in and out. Hants, Surrey, London. Please Reply to Box No 3188

ATTRACTIVE vivacious woman, Ex. Pub Sch 50-ish enjoys country pursuits Theatres entertaining friends and candlelit dinners - Seeks tall warm affectionate man 50-65 similar interests n/s Thames Valley.Photo please Reply to Box No 3064

ATTRACTIVE sensual vivacious intelligent and caring lady 42 who values honesty and integrity and loves countryside the arts and keeping fit would love to meet similar male preferably tall probably professional photo please Staffs. Box No 3050

ATTRACTIVE Black lady 26, 5ft 3", curvy sensual baby woman needs to be taken care of, seeks creative unconventional, humorous, very generous wealthy gentleman 40-45 who is looking for some sparkle in his life. Reply to Box No 3194

ATTRACTIVE self-possessed, offbeat female, 33, seeks caring, humorous, quirky graduate, 38-45 interested in literature, art, classical music. Definitely no anoraks. Southampton. Please Reply to Box No 3278

ATTRACTIVE slim elegant Fashion Designer WLTM nice-looking gentleman, GSOH, approx 60-65. photo app. London. Reply to Box No 3020

BRIGHT, Charming lady in need of companionship & love in her life, would like to meet a tall gentleman with country lifestyle 45-65. Devon.Please write with your tel. no. Box No 3166

BRIGHT, attractive country loving lady, 36, Northants. Has everything but the right man to make life complete. Are you the one? Reply to Box No 3307

CARDIFF COLIN P. Too late for dinghy sailing, Dorset? Please Reply to Box No 2992

CAT LOVER from Cambs seeks charming, courteous, cultured, chap 45-55 n/s. She is friendly, feminine, fun, fit, not faint-hearted, any takers. Box No 3256

CHARMING, educated, attractive, solvent, responsive N.W. London lady seeks strong, decisive, tallish man (55-70). (Charm, good looks, prosperity - no problem!) Phone no. please to Box No 3176

CLASSY Affectionate French lady, 48, London, Likes music, walks, going out and staying in. Like to meet caring, well educ. gentleman 50-58 for genuine rel. Tel. discretion Please Reply to Box No 3266

CONTINENTAL female, 46, 5'7", Sussex based, enjoys foreign travel, home life etc seeks n/s gentleman. Box No 3125

COSMOPOLITAN Prof lady, 53, N/S, slim, attractive, warm with VGSOH, wide interests. Seeks compatible, 46-56 gentleman of integrity with zest for life for whatever may develop. Photo appreciated. Box 3350

CREATIVE, attractive, professional, warm-hearted and adventurous lady, 39, seeks similar gentleman 34-44, to enjoy sailing, outdoors and travel. Hants/Berks area. Photo please. Reply to Box No 3168

CURVY gorgeous lady,in her 30's, warm, outgoing & intelligent, seeks a gentleman to improve her lifestyle immensely. Discretion assured. Box No 3178

DO you prefer a tall elegant dominant lady? If so, let us meet. I am late 40's, intelligent, worldly and elegant and searching this planet for a kind man of good taste and background, longing to please a special lady and with the courage of his convictions! Ideally for keeps. Surrey/London. Tel no essential. Reply to Box No 3218

ELEGANT, prof lady, New Forest based, early 50's - looks younger - loves opera, theatre, dancing and walking in the country, wishes to meet tall, active man, 50+, N/S for long term relationship. Interested? Call Cheryl Brown at Candelburners 071 371 5535.

EUROPEAN LADY 43, intelligent, attractive personality, varied interests WLTM gentleman for permanent relationship age 40/50, highly intelligent with a good & generous nature. Photo apprec. SE area Box No 3326

EXOTIC sensuous mixed race lady likes all music/theatre, travel WLTM English gentleman for genuine friendship between 45-60. London based. Please Reply to Box No 3140

FELLOW Magician, I know you're out there. A man who like me believes with love, truth, trust anything is possible (even magic). Me? - 30's attractive, lively, fun loving, kind, modest! You? - romantic, 40+, open heart and mind, must love hugs, travel, picnics, I want to share love, life, cuddles, good and bad times with someone special. Please reply with photo. Lets see if we can be friends and then maybe more. London/South. Box No 3186

FEMININE, attractive lady, 5'7", in her early 50's, who lives in Kent & enjoys travel, bridge, walks, theatre, etc, sunshine, food & wine. WLTM an unattached, funloving, kind professional gentleman.Box No 3209

FROM SALISBURY but definitely not plain! Lively lady, slim, blonde, divorced and 40. Seeks hang up free, caring, solvent man with laughter lines. In to town and country and anywhere in between .Letter and photo.Reply to Box No 3169

LADY 63, slim active n/s, seeks refined gent for companionship, Suffolk. Reply to Box No 3193

FUN, laughter, warmth, sharing & brains sought by an attractive, intelligent businesswoman keen to redress the all work & no play balance. I am early 40's with wide ranging interests including good food & wine (with the right company), music, countryside, & people watching. You will be 40+, a professional, successful, N/S graduate within striking distance of Oxford. Photo apprec. Please Reply to Box No 3183

FUN LOVING attractive, slim, London, 50ish female with cultured, tall, male, 45-58 for travel in May. Travel expenses shared. Letter, photo, tel no please. Reply to Box No 3163

GOLF, sun sea, travel, I love them all, but need someone to take me there. Friendship is born not bought, so this is not for sale, but on approval to a gallant knight, 45-55ish. Photo please. Box No 3090

GORGEOUS young Ladies, aged 25-45, professional, discerning, seek 12 "gentlemen of distinction", solvent, unattached, refined & fun, to join our cocktail party. Surrey area. Serious replies only including photo please Box No 3162

GREAT OUTDOORS in muddy boots or indoors in slinky frocks, this warm, optimistic, creative, slim brunette awaits warm, considerate, active, presentable 60-ish man for company, love and adventures. London/S.E. Box No 3101.

GREEN-EYED attractive brunette 56, drama lecturer. Sensitive, lively, many civilised interests, adventurous spirit, seeks cultured, professional man, kind and affectionate. Photo appreciated. London /home counties preferred. Please Reply to Box No 3080

HAPPY, romantic, independent, slim lady, 44, loves clothes, cooking, bridge, badminton, music - and you? Seeks gentleman, 40-55, with SOH. Berkshire.Box No 3240

I love life but not on my own. Lady, 56 years old, widow, slim, 5'3" with the zest of life, would like to encounter a male Valentine with similar description. Photo please. Box 2997

I'm 59 going on 40 something (well anyway, a lot younger in outlook & appearance, I'm told!) 5'8", slim, elegant, GSOH, n/s, loves travel, the arts, food, people. Seeking similar, male companion for loving long term relationship & to share life's pleasures. W. London area. Photo app. Box No 3136

I want to remarry a 60 ish educated man. I am a n.s. with a g.s.o.h. & many interests. I'd love to care for someone & be cared for. Surrey/West Sussex. Box No 3274

KATHARINE ALLEN. "The highly respected marriage bureaux" (The Independent). 18 Thayer St. London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-935 3115

KEEP TRYING! An attractive, elegant, intellectual, continental, Jewish lady seeks an intelligent, intense, warm-hearted, dreaming man of action, whose intentions are good (47-55, over 5'9"). Box No 3292

LADY Doctor 62 working p/t Public School, excellent hostess, successful children, missing warmth and companionship of similar professional gentleman 60-70 yr s church goer G.S.O.H. plays bridge. Many interests. Box No 3123

MEET attractive, sexy women at London singles' parties. MEET 'N' EAT 071 629 5634

MEGA-RICH possibly multi-millionaire wanted by gorgeous woman in her 30's Sussex /Surrey based.Box No 3133

MULTI-lingual, well travelled lady wishes to accompany gentleman on a luxury cruise. Please Reply to Box No 3062

NORTHUMBRIAN lady 68 n/s widow WLTM kind, solvent gent 65-70, TLC reciprocated. Please Reply to Box No 3291

MY boss is extremely good-looking, 39, easy-going, very successful but currently has no girlfriend and doubts personal ads work! Prove him wrong. If you are genuinely slim, good looking, 25-35, happy and lively, contact him with photo at Box No 3309. London/SE London/SE.

OPENLY married professional woman, 40, attractive, fun, sensuous woman cuddly yet stylish seeks soulmate for friendship, outings, passion - relationship. London.Reply to Box No 3072

ORIENTAL Lady (39), 5ft 3in. Attractive, single, feminine. A n/s with a warm, loving & caring disposition & well-travelled (worldwide) with interests in country walks, swimming, dining out, music seeks a solvent, caring, loving, faithful unencumbered professional Englishman, 40-48, preferably a n/s for a permanent relationship. Photo essential (returnable). Pls Reply to Box No 3185

PASSIONATE partner please, pref intelligent, professional, sensitive, 50-60ish, for slim, petite, warm, attractive professional woman who loves cuddles. Box No 3126

PILOT'S WIDOW Slim,blond, 53, seeks upmarket chap for 1995 take off.Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 3160

PRETTY YOUNG THING Twenty years old, positive and fun to be with, wishes to meet a charming, attractive, older man. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 3170

PROFESSIONAL Female, 38, blond 5ft 3ins, sporty, likes theatre, travel, dining out, seeks companion (35-40)(male). London area. Please Reply to Box No 3195

REALLY beautiful blonde lady, 26, 5'9", elegant, cultured and compassionate. Great SOH, loves skiing, music and laughter, seeks well-to-do, witty, single gentleman for a committed relationship. Surrey area. Photo appreciated. Box No 3343

REWARD Valentine's Day Dinner for gentleman 65 plus. Tall, free with no ties - no married men please. For much younger lady with view to marriage. London/Cambridge/Sussex. Box No 3167

SCOTLAND, green eyed redhead (40) Edinburgh based, seeks forty something successful man with good sense of humour for fun outings. Box No 3075

SCOTTISH Beauty, 30, curvaceous brunette, blue eyes. Fantastic humour. Loves travel & the good life. You, 35 plus, very well established, in own business. Box No 3175

SITUATION vacant. Ami de coeur. Are you a mature male 50-60, independent, warm and humorous, positive, intelligent & secure about yourself? If so, please send your CV and photograph to Box No 3297

SLIM attractive Jewish female WLTM male, 55-60ish who enjoys sophisticated lifestyle. Warmth & laughter essential. Please Reply to Box No 3341

SLIM: 62, attractive blonde, young 50's, divorced. Wants to meet that special gentleman for lasting relationship. Glos /Avon/Wilts.Reply Box 3227

SMART, semi-retired professional lady, widow. Cambridge area. Interested in travel, music, dining out, family and home WLTM intelligent, considerate gentleman 60-65 GSOH for companionship and perhaps long-term cherishing. Please Reply to Box No 3196

SOCIALLY gregarious, romantically shy Antipodean woman, 38, London based. Slim, stylish, tactile, talkative, seeks man of interest, intellect, integrity and indulgence to befriend, accompany + care for. photo/letter appreciated. Box No 3066

SOUTH Cheshire country lady, widow, 51, 5' 5". Varied interests, wishing to meet country gentleman 48-56, n/s with sense of humour. Please Reply to Box No 3191

STUNNING Slender sophisticated sexy professional business lady 30 seeks interesting tall attractive sincere cultured gentleman with GSOH to share interests including country pursuits, the arts, music and travel. Genuine photo and phone number appreciated. London/Home Counties. Reply to Box No 3219

SURREY widow, happy, feminine, cultured seeks like gentleman 65+ for sharing sense of lifes many pleasures. Please Reply to Box No 3337

STUNNING blue-eyed blonde ex-model with brains slender vivacious feminine sophisticated stylish humorous warm & tender 42 & unattached seeks tall dark-haired attractive slim masculine gentleman for ever! Please Reply to Box No 3098

SUCCESSFUL career woman, recently retired, 59 years young, energetic, SOH, Scottish, intellectually curious, romantic, near Epsom, seeks 5' 10", unattached honourable, interesting, energetic man who looks for friendship, companionship, shared interests, love (in that order). Photo app. Reply to Box No 3206

SUCCESSFUL professional sporty west Londoner (45) with spark of adventure & GSOH lots of TLC + more seeks attractive uncomplicated n/s lady 30+ for that special relationship. Send photo to Box No 3084

TALL attractive Cambridge woman (50) WLTM a witty amusing professional man. Please Reply to Box No 3058

TALL slim attractive female, 42, with many attributes and interests wishing to meet similar independent professional male, active with young outlook, to share life, love and hopefully lots of laughs. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 3271

TRAVEL EDITOR, London based, young 45, attractive, blonde, good listener/good talker. Seeks witty, cultured, enthusiastic male, 40-55 for close relationship. Photo please to Box No 3313

VALENTINE Knight shining bentley, where are you? Lovely green eyed lady 52, size 10, RC, BA frantic smoking, insomnia, treasure hard bag photo Xxx Tel X Please Box No 3081

VERY attractive, (but modest!) professional female graduate (33) - Barbie-Doll with intelligence, w.l.t.m. single, fit, non-smoking male (33-43yrs) in the Manchester area, of similar educational standing with g.s.o.h. who will share my love of travel, arts, dogs, walking and the usual good things in life. Only sincere, caring man of integrity need apply. Roman Catholics score an extra 10 Bonus points. Photo & Tel. no. essential. Box No 3290

VERY attractive slim warm outgoing adventurous 40 something S.W.London WLTM tall, financially secure man with same qualities - for life, but also maybe for skiing in March! Photo appreciated. Box No 3334

WARM and witty, fairly pretty, slim and feminine brunette. Wishes to share love of nature, literature, theatre, music, fine cuisine and oodles of TLC with tallish, slimmish, well-travelled, well-read, old fashioned gentleman (50-65). Surrey/London. Please Reply to Box No 3215

WARM and fun female, 52, would like to meet kindly and sincere man 40+ with GSOH for companionship, outings and time together. Interests include Classic FM, animals and inner-journeying. Please Reply to Box No 3117.... SW London area.

WARM, sensuous, bubbly and attractive graduate (50's) interested in theatre, country pubs, good conversation. Seeks prof. unattached male for cultivated relationship. Box No 3312

WILL St Valentine answer my request? Stylish mid-50s, E.Kent WLTM intelligent, N/S, 50-60 widower/divorcee for friendship & possible romance. Please Reply to Box No 3384

WINE PARTY February. Lots of us! all attractive, vivacious, Pub Sch. 30's - but - not enough chaps. If you are "one of us" you too are Pub Sch, prof City job, late 30's/early 40's (and have all your hair). Patricia eves/weekends 081 392 9009

WONDERFUL witty winsome woman (40's) wants to meet marvellous magnificent magnanimous man 35-45 n/s for an adventurous amourous affair (for ever)! S.E. area. Photo appreciated. Box No 3093

YES, we are all slim, attractive with a GSOH and every attribute know to man - but try me, I may have something more! If you are 50ish. I'm in north London. Box No 3282

YOUTHFUL, bright, affectionate, 50ish, privately educated, well-travelled, stylish, interesting lady wishes to spoil a really lovely, unmarried, solvent, n/s, well-adjusted, healthy, business or professional man 48-55 with savoir-vivre, for friendship /relationship. Recent photo please. Location no object. Reply to Box No 3275

37 yr old professional graduate and single mother would like to meet professional male to share interests of classical music, conversation and to develop friendship. Please Reply to Box No 3338. Photo appreciated.

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AIRLINE EXECUTIVE Early forties, Edinburgh, tall slim seeks slim elegant lady, wining and dining/travel, sense of humour essential. Photo required.Please Reply to Box No 3145

ALL-ROUND nice attractive tall man 42 into all things bright and beautiful seeks lovable lady. Photo app. London & home counties. Box No 3091

AMERICAN Lawyer (37) seeks slim liberals, genteel SWPF (30-37) photo, serious particulars Please Reply to Box No 3321

A RECIPE For Romance: start with reasonably handsome blue eyed blonde 39 loving generous kind & honest however not perfect add in theatre restaurants travel romantic evenings in/out. Blend with attractive stylish tall lady. Serves 2 for friendship possible LTR photo appreciated. Box No 3100

ARE you feminine, unattached slim, attractive well-spoken, elegant, warm & affectionate who WLTM widower with a quiet but comfortable life-style in Hertfordshire? I am 71, semi-retired, young at heart N/S active, healthy, responsible, caring. Brisk walker, poor golfer, improving bridge player, keen home musician (light music), enjoy good food, wine, holidays & breaks. Could our GSOH be compatible & lead to happiness & a loving relationship together. Box No 3122

ARE you 30's - waiting for a romantic 43 yr old Co. Director (Jewish n/s n.s. g.s.o.h.) to sweep you off your feet? Do you like Cinema, theatre, eating out (or nights in!) Current affairs (Com) & want to share life and lots of love? Then I want to hear from you (photo pref) Box No 3267

ASIAN lady (35/45) with humour, grace & intelligence sought by divorced English businessman living in London. Interests varied - dining, romance & travel. Please respond with photograph to Box No 2906

ATTRACTIVE knight in shining armour currently disguised as Co. Director (45) needs rescuing by NS, attractive, intelligent, witty, professional Damsel (distress optional). N. London, Beds, Herts, Bucks. Letter & Photo to Box No 3288

ATTRACTIVE Man (48) tall fair blue eyes, completely normal nice and fun and loyal, looking for similar lady (32 - 42) for love, marriage. photo please. SW London. Box No 3264

ATTRACTIVE Amorous slim lady sought by male 50. Photo Pls. London/SE. Box No 3269

AUSSIE New to UK. WLTM 30's N/S Lady, into Skiing, sports, travel & TLC. Call 01055 79076983 or Box No 3301

A 31yr old n/s gent 5'8½" living in Surrey, solvent, kind and gentle, seeks good company of smart, mature, GSOH, professional, 25-35, who likes the country life. Photo if possible. Please Reply to Box No 3187

BACHELOR (Recycled) some assets (allegedly charming, witty and solvent at last audit) But some liabilities (bald, bony and boozy) seeks lady, 38/47, short, slender for fun, friendship and the future. London based. Box No 3068

BRIT. Youthful 63, 5'8" international businessman weekly visitor to U.K (London/home counties). Cultured, humorous, intelligent, outgoing, personality. Thoughtful caring nature. Respecter of women. Affluent, adventurous and alone! Seeks ultra feminine, attractive lady, 35-55, of means, as companion /escort (and perhaps lover). Photo/phone no. app. Please Reply to Box No 3192

CARING Cancerian Company Director very young early fifties - attractive interesting understanding compassionate non smoking lots of fair hair blue eyes about 5'9" tall living in luxury flat near Croydon - seeks elegant slim feminine young lady 30 to 40 for wining dining fun laughter happiness exotic holidays - to be my soul mate from now into Eternity. Photo & Phone Essential.Please reply to Box No 3270

CHEERFUL chap, saucy 60's, WLTM lovely lady, nifty 50's, to enjoy the naughty 90's! S'thern counties. Box No 3228

CHRISTIAN (Anglican) widower, 67, graduate, fit, active, solvent, kind, N/S, GSOH, WLTM educated Christian lady, perhaps widow, under 65 with a view to marriage if relationship develops and there is compatibility. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3138

CIVILISED unattached, successful Oxbridge man (54), interests include classical music, travel, theatre, arts generally, sport, keeping fit, seeks articulate and intelligent professional/academic woman, 30s/40s for caring relationship, marriage if compatible, possibly to late-start or extend family. Photo appreciated and returned. London and SE area. Box No 3121

COUNTRY HOUSE needs TLC and style, extra perk is charming owner 50+ intelligent, active, sails, skis, *but lacks cuddles and love.* SE. Box No 3355

CREATIVE professional man, conventional on the surface but deep underneath, seeks woman soulmate to share life and laughs with mid 30's, tall & self-aware. Interests include sport, music, travel and the outdoors. Reply to Box No 3119

DESIGNER 48, solvent, only tie his cat. Many varied interests including film, theatre, music, scuba and travel. Waiting to meet n/s female with a sense of fun and adventure for jolly good time! Box No 3259

ENGLISHMAN, house in S.W. France, flat in S.W. London, seeks n/s, educated, fit, French speaking English woman, 50-65, to play tennis, ski downhill, & enjoy opera, gardening, food & wine. Non-working ex-wife preferred.Reply to Box No 3086

ENGLISH Gentleman living South of France, young 60's, seeks lady to share life in sun and varied interests. Please Reply to Box No 3171

ESTABLISHED but not wealthy genuine young 60's Widower seeks slim "power dresser" classy society type with no ties lady 45+, not averse to little smoking with view to marriage in average lifestyle. London preferred, but not essential. Letter with photo please.Box No 3238

EVERYTHING I want except you - if around 35, slim, sensuous, eyecatching and ready for a memorable and possibly permanent relationship please send detailed letter & recent photo which will be returned by a 45 year old single company director living one hour from Lincoln. Reply to Box No 2751

FIT, slim, country loving chap, 66, with super farmhouse, Kent hop gardens, needing slim, dishy lady, late 50's to spoil & cherish, perhaps medical or arts. Photograph will help, promise return, n/s please.Box No 3177

FRENCH man, 31, single, 1m74, non-smoker, seeks nice & kind girl (18-30) in London for correspond, great friendship, mutual visits and maybe permanent relationship. I want to improve my English. Hobbies: Travels, music, humour, languages, exhibitions, stamps + England. Write to: Francois Rosicki, 8 Rue de Reuilly, 75012 Paris France.

GOOD-LOOKING Prof. m, s 6'4", 33, n/s, caring, easy going, GSOH, seeks slim, attractive lady for fun & romance Bournemouth/Dorset area. B No 3265

HAMPSHIRE based Naval Officer, (28) 5ft 10, n/s, seeks charming and beautiful young lady (24-32) with vivacious character to become his Jack Tar for skiing, conversation, food and wine, for friendship/ long term relationship. Hants/ Surrey/London. Photo appreciated. Pls Reply to Box No 3 [illegible]

HANDSOME Blonde 42 year old, very fit and looks younger seeks a slim businesswoman for romance. Despite successful business, an interest in sport, theatre, food, travel, and the countryside is bored and lonely. Thames valley. Photo please Box No 3286

HANDSOME English gentleman mid 40's tall slim lives Colchester, seeks attractive lady for romance. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3 [illegible]

HUMANIST being, male, academic, artistic, solvent, late 30's but slim and pretty fit (vegetarian), residing Surrey, seeks elegant, professional woman (nationality unimportant) to share life's pleasures and ideas, to enjoy culture, recreation and travel.Reply to Box No 272

LIFES A dream then our partners are struck down. Lets rebuild. You: Goldie Hawn type 5ft 2/4ins, size 10, athletic, adventurous, fashionable, 50's looks 30's, kind, gentle, not working. Me: Dr (PhD) mid Surrey. Hobbies: sports, travel, sailing, JACXJS. Photo vital/please *Reply to Box No 3276*

LITERATE humorous male, tall, 56, emotionally and financially stable but romance-starved, seeks stylish intelligent woman for close companionship and mutual enjoyment of normal civilised interests. N/S Home counties North preferred. Please Reply to Box No 3094

LONDON *Lawyer,* slim, fit and good-looking, 39, cultured, articulate, amusing, Jewish seeking attractive, presentable, wholly uncommitted lady, max 33. Photo & 'phone please. Reply to Box No 3000

LONDON based man 35, W.L.T.M cultured 70+ lady for friendship. Please Reply to Box No 3279

MILLIONAIRE single, 43, tender, protective, humorous, seeks baby-woman similar Jan March, under 30, very slim, pretty face for long weekend of ski and many trips in tropical islands. Photos essential Please Write to Box No 2664

1995 new start. Caring sincere man 40's solvent. Likes family life, days out & holidays. Seeks petite young lady, with/without own children. For life-long relationship/marriage. Photo appreciated. London, SE/Kent area.Reply to Box No 3272

PARTNER needed for Clapton : Stones this year or whenever ME: Fun. Fabulous. Forties. You [illegible] over 21 with great [illegible] Must like M&S food. [illegible] all I can cook. Ideally Hants/[illegible]/Surrey. Photo much [illegible] Reply Box No 2999

PROF. male, 28, B'ham based, n/s, 5', dark, handsome, cultured intelligent and refined, with romantic, tender-hearted "big boy" type personality, seeks lovely young lady with traditional values, a heart of gold but also a good brain - view to romance? Photo preferred but ALA - from anywhere. Reply Box No 3189

PROFESSIONAL, black, Christian gentleman divorced, 47yrs old, fit & handsome. Interests: music, concerts, wining & dining. Seeks attractive lady, between 30-46, any nationality for friendship. London /Surrey Reply to Box No 3294

SPIRITUAL Libra lady 32-42 with style anywhere sought by romantic Leo with GSOH no [illegible] and a taste for life. Please Reply to Box No 3226

STAFFS /Midlands prof. Attractive, fit, active, slim, young 50 gent seeks similar female 35/45 [illegible] to romance /holidays Please Reply to Box No 3181

SUCCESSFUL Parisian 36, attractive, tall, n/s, intelligent, romantic, sincere, passionate, stylish. Interests food, wine, dog, travel. Seeks genuine attractive, professional /executive successful lady 30-48 for lasting romance. Photo please. London/country Box 3150

SURREY/HANTS based successful Public Sch. Graduate, 51. Extensively travelled, Faithful, sensitive & tactile. Own business, semi-rtd. enjoys a full life with golf, sailing, bridge, theatre, ballet, most music, good food & wine but needs that special someone. Seeks attractive well educated lady (40's-50's) with style, GSOH & spirit for long term companionable soul mate for lots of TLC to share all or some of above and life's future pleasures & problems. I know you're out there somewhere ?? Photo app. returned. Reply to Box No 3346

SURREY based professional, newly single, own business, n/s, late 40's seeks special slim elegant sensuous lady 30-45 for fun, outings, holidays etc. If you want lots of T.L.C. Apply (photo appreciated). Box No 3065

TALL, slim, Staffs. based gent, 39, enjoys countryside, conversation, humour, seeks warm-hearted, intelligent lady, 28-35. Please reply to Box No 3068

TALL slim handsome divorced professional Cheshire male 37 attractive lifestyle seeks stylish out-going lady for friendship.

TOO good to be true? 49yr old retired City business man divorced n/s GSOH good-looking wealthy and enjoys most things. What else could a woman want? Are you 30-40, attractive, sexy, uncomplicated and looking for excitement in 1995? Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2946

UPSCALED FRENCH Professional Gentleman, single, very good looking, tall and fit, late 30's, good standard of living, varied cultural musical and outdoor interests, is looking for an upscaled, educated, pretty lady n/s mid 20's to mid 30's London based for possible friendship, or relationship. Recent photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3322

WARM hearted Asian Businessman (48) fond of travelling, restaurant, theatre, cinema based in Paris London searching for a soul mate aged 30-60 for friendship and love. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3320

WIDELY travelled independent City Banker (42) likes outdoors books movies music. Seeks fun-loving attractive woman (28-35) to enjoy life with in London and abroad. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3201

YOUNG mid 30's Company Director, sporty etc. Looking for someone GSOH 20-30yrs to squander money on & enjoy life. Please send photo which will be returned.Box No 3231

EVERYTHING I want except you - if around 35, slim, sensuous, eyecatching and ready for a memorable and possibly permanent relationship please send detailed letter & recent photo which will be returned by a 45 year old single company director living one hour from Lincoln. Reply to Box No 2751

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GENTLEMAN fit, 63, comfortably retired, sadly widowed seeks to enjoy life and romance with happy, n/s, intelligent, stylish widow 55/60's comfortable in black dress or wellies! Possible interests skiing, music, entertaining, bridge & sailing. Cheshire area. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 2965

GOOD-LOOKING Cheshire man 40, secure, open, strong on integrity. Seeks soul-mate to share good conversation, country walks, fireside cuddles and more. Is there a real woman 30-40 with physical beauty, intelligence, warmth, honesty and a readinessready for true partnership? Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2890

GOTT Nytt Ar, Hauskaa Vuotta Juotta from a Scandinavian female, settled in London. Prof. early 40's, tall, slim, fit, n/s, seeks a sporty, tall male with GSOH & into all good things in life. My New Year's resolution, remain positive, stay optimistic, what's yours. Please reply with recent photo to Box No 2940

HAPPY, fit, tall 6'4", good and young-looking, late 30's, sincere, unattached, French professional. Interests include the arts, music, sports and antiques. WLTM a pretty, witty, educated, unattached n/s prof. lady 25-35, for friendship. London based. Recent photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 2970

TALL, Well-built, Blue-eyed male, 30, seeks friendship with mature lady reply box No 293

KIND caring educated gentleman own successful business 4 seeks single lady (children no problem) 25-40. Ints: incl. travelling skiing golf sailing. S. area. Please Reply with photo to Box No 2836

MILLIONAIRE single, 43, tender, protective, humorous, seeks baby-woman similar Jan March, under 30, very slim, pretty face for long weekend of ski and many trips in tropical islands. Photos essential Please Write to Box No 2664

LONDON based. Generous and easy-going professional man, seeks charming and feminine lady aged 30-35 for relationship. Like me you w have a well developed sense of the absurd and enjoy good food, conversation, theatre and travel. Letter and photo appreciated.Reply Bc No 2904

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MEET SOMEONE THROUGH
THE TIMES

Source: NRS Jan-June 94

A pork pie saved my life ... well, nearly

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Until last week, I had never considered a pork pie to be an essential safety item, but there again I had never been stuck in a snowdrift. I ought to explain that for the last year I have been wandering around England researching a forthcoming book on pigs and the glorious foods they give us. I shall shortly be in a position to make startling revelations about the almost-extinct polony — you can expect a full account of faggots, and the true story of the Yorkshire pub and its Saturday night blood-pudding supper. To gather material for the final chapter, last week I found myself in Darlington watching jolly ladies stamp out pork pies in the back room of Zissler's famous pork shop.

There are now so few pork shops left that, in their centenary year, I recommend that the National Trust should preserve Zissler's for the nation. Here you find cooked pigs' trotters lying alongside black puddings, savoury ducks and dyed, bright red brawn. But the pork pies had a magnificence which set them apart. The smell as they emerged from the oven, the shining, golden lids glistening as brilliantly as Olympic medals, made me determined to have one. After Mr. Zissler had shared as many of his secret recipes with me as he felt able, I made my purchase. I did not opt for the puny bite-sized pie; instead I bought one that would have served as a spare wheel for a *child's pram*. As I tucked it into its bag, little did I know that my life could have depended on it.

Now, it is the habit of all farmers to derive great pleasure from watching other farmers at work. And so, instead of taking the easier route south and homewards, I decided to make a detour by way of the Yorkshire Dales. It was raining heavily, but no matter.

I did not have to go many miles before I was rewarded with a sight that gladdened my heart. On the brow of a windswept hill, the heavily clad figure of a stooping old farmer could be made out. Sensing, I imagine, that bad weather was on its way, he was gathering a flock of a hundred black-faced ewes and driving them through a gate, over a derelict dry-stone wall, and into a barn. I am pleased to report that this seasoned old-timer was making as much of a pig's ear of doing it as I would have. I had always imagined these hard-bitten Dales farmers and their piercing-eyed dogs could place any sheep anywhere they wanted at any given moment. I dare say most of them can, but not this chap. He cursed his dogs using language that comes often to my lips at such times; he ran, chased, waved his crook. For all I know he is still at it.

I drove on, higher up the Dale, making the lowlander's mistake of ignoring contour lines on the map and thinking the quickest way to any destination was by the straightest line. Progress was fine, if a little tense, till I arrived at the summit. Here the air was filled with snow and the wind blowing with such ferocity that I was now driving *in* snow and not on it. I turned the corner in the gathering dusk to find a sharp right bend, a precipice on my left, and a wall of snow a couple of feet high which had been ripped by the wind from the top of the moor and deposited so as to cause me maximum inconvenience. I was stuck.

Would it be best to stay there with the car, or trudge on by foot hoping to stumble across some imagined farmhouse. Or should you stay in your car with the engine running? Or switch the engine off? I couldn't remember. These things do not happen at home in sub-tropical East Anglia.

Remembering that I had one of those devices which must surely have caused mass redundancies amongst St. Bernard dogs worldwide, a portable phone, I called the police. When I gave the officer my position he gasped: "Oh hell," as if I had just told him I was on an unstable ice floe somewhere off Greenland. "Are you a priority case, sir?" he asked. Pulling myself together and thinking of plucky farmers for whom snowdrifts are a routine winter business, I replied in clipped tones, "No thank you. I have an overcoat and a pork pie." Comforted by the the company of Mr Zissler's produce, I settled down for the night.

After a longish time spent looking at the pie, and thinking, the wind strengthened. It eventually grew so strong that all the snow was blown away from the stretch of road behind the car. With the thought in the back of my mind that if we started to slide over the precipice I could always use the pork-pie to chock one of the wheels, I managed to reverse out of the drift and slither back down the Dale to safety.

I have learnt my lesson. Soft southern dwellers should never make fun of a Yorkshire farmer. Their Dales will find a way of getting their own back, and sooner than you think. And never travel without a pork pie. Your life may depend on it.

Fibre growers are poised to enter the commercial limelight

Hemp and flax lead the fibre revolution

If Harry Gilbertson has his way, the appearance of the British countryside will soon be going *through a dramatic transformation*. Where vast arable expanses have been put into set-aside, as part of European Union policy to reduce surpluses, Mr Gilbertson is hoping to see the idle land give way to unfamiliar crops of flax, hemp, and maybe even stinging nettles.

Mr Gilbertson is marketing manager for the Natural Fibres Organisation, a group set *up at Silsoe in Bedfordshire* with funds from the Ministry *of Agriculture (MAFF)* and support from farmers and sympathetic industrialists.

Its purpose is to promote home-grown fibre plants and all the downstream products they can generate, from textiles to horse-bedding, from bibles to particle board.

Both the elements are now in place, Mr Gilbertson says, for a much-needed agricultural and industrial revolution: *land and technology*.

> ❛ The greatest potential buyers of flax and hemp fibres are paper mills ❜

"Last year, set-aside accounted for a million and a half acres in England and Wales," Mr Gilbertson says. "Wouldn't it serve the country better if we used that land to meet our non-food needs?"

In his former role as an engineer at the Silsoe Research Institute, Mr Gilbertson led the development of an innovative decorticator, a machine that extracts the tough stem fibres from plant material. It will soon be possible, for the first time, to extract the stem fibres from plants on an industrial scale at low cost.

The story begins with the recent subsidy-driven linseed boom which saw acreages shoot up from next to nothing in the mid-1980s to 180,000 acres in 1994. Linseed, in fact, is nothing but a large-seeded, short-stemmed variant of flax — the plant whose fibres are traditionally woven into linen.

The straw left over after harvesting the seed is rich in *resilient* fibres — so resilient that farmers are allowed to burn linseed straw in the fields because it takes years to rot down. Silsoe's idea was to develop a decorticator to extract those fibres.

Such a machine, Silsoe's researchers construed, could add value to crops, end the burning of linseed straw and lay the foundation of a new farm-based industrial sector turning the extracted fibres into finished goods. The Government decided to support Silsoe's efforts through its LINK scheme, which promotes crops for industrial use.

It took about three years to develop a prototype decorticator. Now, a year later, Silsoe is taking delivery of a full-scale machine which, after testing, will be passed on to Hampshire-based agricultural merchants Robin Appel Ltd for industrial use.

The prototype, meanwhile, has proved its ability to process not just linseed straw but the longer-stemmed fibre flax (of which 40,000 acres were grown last year), hemp and even stinging nettles. The only difficulty so far, says David Bruce, of Silsoe, is that hemp's long fibres tend to wrap themselves around the machine's rollers. The decorticator is now being adjusted.

Leeds University's Department of Textile Industries has already made a variety of products from flax fibre: oil and water filters; "revegetation blankets" that can be spread over bare soil to prevent erosion while plants grow up from embedded seeds; and boons to soak up oil from polluted water. Professor David Johnson, head of the department, is confident that these materials can compete in both price and quality. In addition to these industrial-type applications, Professor Johnson is also developing finer flax-based textiles for making clothes and furnishing materials.

Likewise with hemp: samples supplied by the South London-based Bioregional Development Group (BDG) are currently being put through the decorticator. Next the extracted fibre will be woven into cloth and made into heavy-duty jeans. "The original denim jeans worn by California goldminers were made from hemp," Sue Riddlestone, of BDG, says. "They are extremely durable."

Even the waste from the decortication process — woody granules known as "shiv" — is useful. One company, Essex-based Hemcore, is selling hemp shiv as premium-grade horse bedding.

But perhaps the greatest potential buyers of hemp and flax fibre are paper mills. Currently, Hemcore's hemp fibre is being pulped into the fine paper needed for cigarettes and bibles. But there could be a far larger role for hemp and flax in high-volume paper markets.

With the rising recycled content of newsprint and other papers, problems are looming for paper millers: each time paper is recycled, the fibres get shorter and weaker and the paper becomes increasingly fragile.

But, according to Mr Gilbertson, just a few per cent of flax or hemp fibre, incorporated in the paper, will restore its strength.

"These are early days but I feel we're on the verge of something big," Mr Gilbertson says. "There is no such thing as waste with these fibre plants. There's a productive use for every bit of them."

OLIVER TICKELL

OLIVER TICKELL

A trial batch of English hemp is put through Silsoe's decorticator, where the tough stem fibres will be extracted

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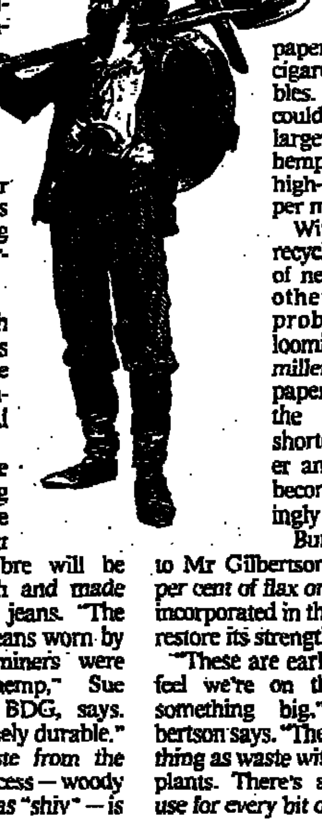

A hemp field — the blue jeans worn by California goldminers, right, were made of hemp

● Readers wishing to contact The Inn Sign Society (Weekend travel, Jan 14) may do so via Alan Wright, 18 Dunlin Avenue, Newton-Le-Willows, Merseyside, WA12 9RF (01925 227462).

Chicken thieves in a lonely landscape

Feather report

OVER the brow of a sugar-beet field comes a sinister shape. It is only a few feet above the crop, and has long, upturned wings, with the tips of the feathers spread like a hand made of daggers. It takes a few flaps, then glides again.

When it sees you, it turns away with some more powerful wing-flaps, and now you can see that it is a dark-brown bird, heavily built, with a pale rump. It is a hen *harrier*. If you had been a small bird sheltering in the beet, it would have plunged down and carried you off.

Harriers always hunt in this way, flying low, looming up suddenly, and swooping. They like to hunt in large open spaces, and go up and down quartering the land. In the winter, you find them mostly near the coast, especially along the east coast, but they may turn up anywhere in lonely landscapes.

The brown birds are females. They are seen more often at this time of year than the males, which are smaller, and silvery-grey with inky wing-tips. At night they gather to roost in reed-beds or in long, rough grass, but at dawn they each return to their own hunting lands, where they work alone.

Last week I was in Flevoland in Holland, driving through fields that were seabed only ten years ago. Hen harriers have flourished in this flat, empty countryside, and have grown much tamer than the few we see in Britain.

They were sitting on telegraph poles and the tops of roadside trees outside Lelystad, the new town of the polders, which has adopted the harrier as its symbol. The Dutch name for the harrier translates as "chicken-thief", but they are rarely raiders of farmyards now.

It was very windy on the polders, and as the harriers peeled away from their perches, they demonstrated plainly their mastery of the air.

In summer, hen harriers go up to the Scottish moors to breed. There are also a small number nesting on the mountains of Wales and northwest England. There they give spectacular flying displays. The courting males soar into the sky, twist and plummet down, sometimes turning from side to side as they fall. They will even loop the loop.

They nest mainly in the heather, and feed on young rabbits and pipits. They also take grouse sometimes, and are still shot by keepers, but their overall numbers are steady at present. The new conifer plantations provide a habitat for some of them when the trees are young.

The female feeds the young but the male goes out hunting for her. When it comes back with its prey, she will fly up and take it from him on the wing. He either drops it for her, and she catches it, or he passes it from his talons to hers.

There are two other British harriers — the marsh and the Montagu's harrier — but they are almost exclusively summer visitors. The Montagu's harrier is smaller than the hen harrier, but is quite hard to distinguish. Marsh harriers are massive birds of the reed-beds — you can see them quite easily in the spring at Minsmere in Suffolk. But any V-shaped bird you may see gliding over the wild places just now will be a hen harrier.

DERWENT MAY

The hen harrier prefers to hunt alone

● **What's about:** *Birders — check lakes, rivers and marshes for water rail. Twitchers — Forster's tern at Bangor, Gwyned: pine bunting at Wexford, North Slob, Co Wexford: four lesser white-fronted geese in Norfolk. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

● *Robin Jacques is away.*

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BUDGET HOLIDAYS: A champagne break in France or a mini Scandinavian cruise need not cost a fortune

☐ Unicorn Holidays (01582 834400) has fly-drive breaks in northern Portugal, including an eight-day tour visiting Barcelos, Pinhao, Viseu and Luso, staying in manor houses and on a port and wine producing estate. From £672, including return flights Heathrow to Oporto, hire car and accommodation with breakfast.

☐ Meon Travel Group (01730 268411) has short breaks in Portugal, including three nights at the 15th-century Paco de S. Cipriano manor house near Guimaraes, in the Costa Verde. Prices from £316 per person, including return flights Heathrow to Oporto, car hire and B&B accommodation.

☐ Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355) has an escorted tour to the architectural and historical sites of Lisbon and central Portugal (including Evora, Tomar and Bussaco) from October 10-22. From £1,550, including return flights Heathrow to Lisbon, internal travel, accommodation and dinner at 3-star or 5-star hotels.

☐ Painting Holidays at Torres do Colegio (0171-352 1898) is running Botanical Painting Courses on March 9-15 and March 18-24. The £500 cost includes accommodation at a manor house outside Lagos, Portugal, all meals, drinks, and tuition, but does not include flights.

☐ Mundi Color Holidays (0171-828 6021) has short breaks to Granada, Jerez and Cordoba in Spain. Three nights B&B at the 3-star Hotel Anacapri in Granada costs from £258, including return flights from Heathrow or Gatwick to Malaga, and car hire.

☐ Art of Travel (0171-738 2038) has an escorted safari following the wildebeest migration in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, from March 4 to 15. The £2,696 cost includes return flights Heathrow to Arusha. Staying mainly under canvas.

TRAVEL TIPS

☐ Dragoman (01728 861133) has escorted five-week safaris through Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, including the Okavango Delta and the Kalahari Desert. From £860, including internal travel and camping equipment. The price excludes return flights from the UK to Harare.

☐ Encounter Overland (0171-370 6951) has a 26-week safari London to Cape Town which visits Fez, the Western Desert, Victoria Falls, Uganda and Tanzania. Departures between February 4 and October 14. The £4,175 price includes transport, camping equipment and food. The cost of flights from Cape Town to the UK starts at £400.

CHRISTINE WHEELER

SPECTRUM

Room with a view: A two-night break in Epernay, in the champagne growing region of France, costs from £69 per person, including ferry crossing

On the trail of bargain breaks

If Christmas has left you in the mood to plan your next holiday but short of cash, the good news is that there are excellent budget holidays around. I have carried out research for *Bargain Holiday Directory* over the past year and found many forms of budget travel, from weekend breaks to world tours at surprisingly low prices.

Some holidays are even cheaper than last year, and you can find some amazing bargains. For example, Portland Holidays (0171-388 5111) is offering seven nights at Costa Almeria, Spain, for £109, or you could travel to the Algarve with Unijet Wintersun (01444 451 515), for the same period for £135.

Or how about Tunisia? Panorama (01273 206531) has 14-night holidays in hotel accommodation, including breakfast, for £194 in Hammamet. If you fancy something more exotic, you could try Goa, India, for 14 nights from £449, including half board, with Hayes and Jarvis (0181-748 5050).

The general rule is, the later you leave it to book, the better the bargain. Don't be frightened to haggle. As far as the travel company is concerned, some money is better than none. But it does pay to be flexible. The more options you are prepared to consider, the better your chance of finding a bargain.

There is intense competition in the travel industry at the moment, and it pays to shop around. Even traditionally expensive forms of travel can be enjoyed for low prices. For example, a seven-night skiing holiday in Flaine, France, by car and ferry, costs from £95 per person through Ski Drive France (0181-395 3030). Or you could go by coach to Austria for seven days' skiing at a cost of £125, including travel insurance, from Timescape Ski Club (0181-980 7244).

Saving on costs need not mean compromising on style. You can take a *mini cruise* with Scandinavian Seaways (01255-241 234) to Hamburg, Esbjerg (Denmark) or Gothenburg (Sweden) from £59. The price includes two nights aboard the ship and a city tour. For a £25 supplement you can take a mini break in Esbjerg or Hamburg which includes a third night in a hotel, continental breakfast and a sightseeing tour of the city. Each cabin has an en-suite shower and lavatory, and the ships have excellent facilities, including restaurants, cafeterias, bars, banks, duty free shops, cinemas, discos and, in some cases, a casino and a sauna.

Hammamet, Tunisia: 14-nights B&B for £194

Or you could have a two-night break in Reims or Epernay, in the champagne growing region of France, with Driveline Europe (01707-660 011) from £69 per person, including ferry crossing. If you just want to spend one night abroad, it can cost as little as £49 for a trip to Le Touquet, including accommodation in a two-star hotel and ferry crossing.

If you prefer to stay in the UK, The Landmark Trust (01628 825925) hires out interesting and unusual properties. It could be an old vicarage, a water tower, oast house, castle or Gothic temple. For the adventurous there are places to stay on Lundy Island, off the Devon coast. All the holiday homes have been painstakingly restored and furnished in the appropriate style. The cost is from around £10 per person per night, including gas and electricity. These holidays are very popular so you have to book well in advance.

Exchanging homes with someone in another country can be an economical way to have a holiday, and it gives you the chance to sample a different culture without feeling like a tourist.

You have to pay a fee for arranging the swap, and you must check with your insurers first. Some people even include their car in the swap — again, consult your insurance company beforehand. There are several companies which arrange home exchanges, the largest being Home Link International (01344 842642) which has 16,000 members in more than 50 countries and charges an annual subscription of £49 for a directory of households available for exchange.

You could combine one of these holidays with a courier flight and save even more money. Courier companies deliver letters and packages abroad and they can offer cheap flights to the public because they use part of the passenger's baggage allowance to transport the documents. This provides a quicker service for the customer as unaccompanied material could be detained in customs for over a week. Courier Travel Services (0171-351 0300) allows you to take 23kg of luggage (equivalent to a medium-sized suitcase) and is at present offering New York for £99 return, San Francisco for £175 return and Hong Kong for £299 return.

Another surprising discovery during the course of my research was the cost of round the world flights. While they are not exactly cheap, they do represent excellent value for money. For example, you can fly London to Bangkok, then Bali, Sydney, Auckland/-Wellington/Christchurch, Tahiti, Los Angeles and back to London from £758 with Bridge the World (0171-911 0900).

The tickets are usually valid for up to one year and you can stay as long as you like in one place. Your journey will usually be with a combination of airlines, so that you can fly by the cheapest route. When you are travelling you need to confirm each leg of your journey. It is worth asking whether the airline can book you into a hotel as airlines usually make block bookings and will sometimes make reservations for members of the public at a very reduced rate.

SARAH MAYES

● *Lots of holidays, tips for travellers and other ideas for budget travel are contained in* Bargain Holiday Directory, *£3.95, including package and postage, from PSM Publications, PO Box No 2572, Epping, Essex CM16 7BW (01992 573548).*

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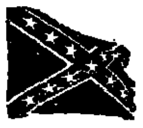
SMT

AMERICA: Historic sites where battles were lost and won now echo with the footsteps of Civil War enthusiasts

Tourists on the battlefield



SIR Marmaduke Royston-Smythe *banged his fist* on the elegantly laid table until the cutlery shook. "But *slavery, sir, slavery! This is* the issue! How can we continue to support your country when so many of our people recoil at the horrors of slavery?" Captain Paul Young of the 44th Georgia, resplendent in rebel grey, *put* his hand on the hilt of his sword and tried to conjure a reply. James duPriest, Mayor of Ashland *County, Virginia, looked* distinctly nervous. On this day of June 30, 1863 — not long after Confederate General Robert E. Lee's great victory at Chancellorsville, and not long before his great defeat at *Gettysburg — Mayor duPriest* had been hoping for more from the British Delegation.

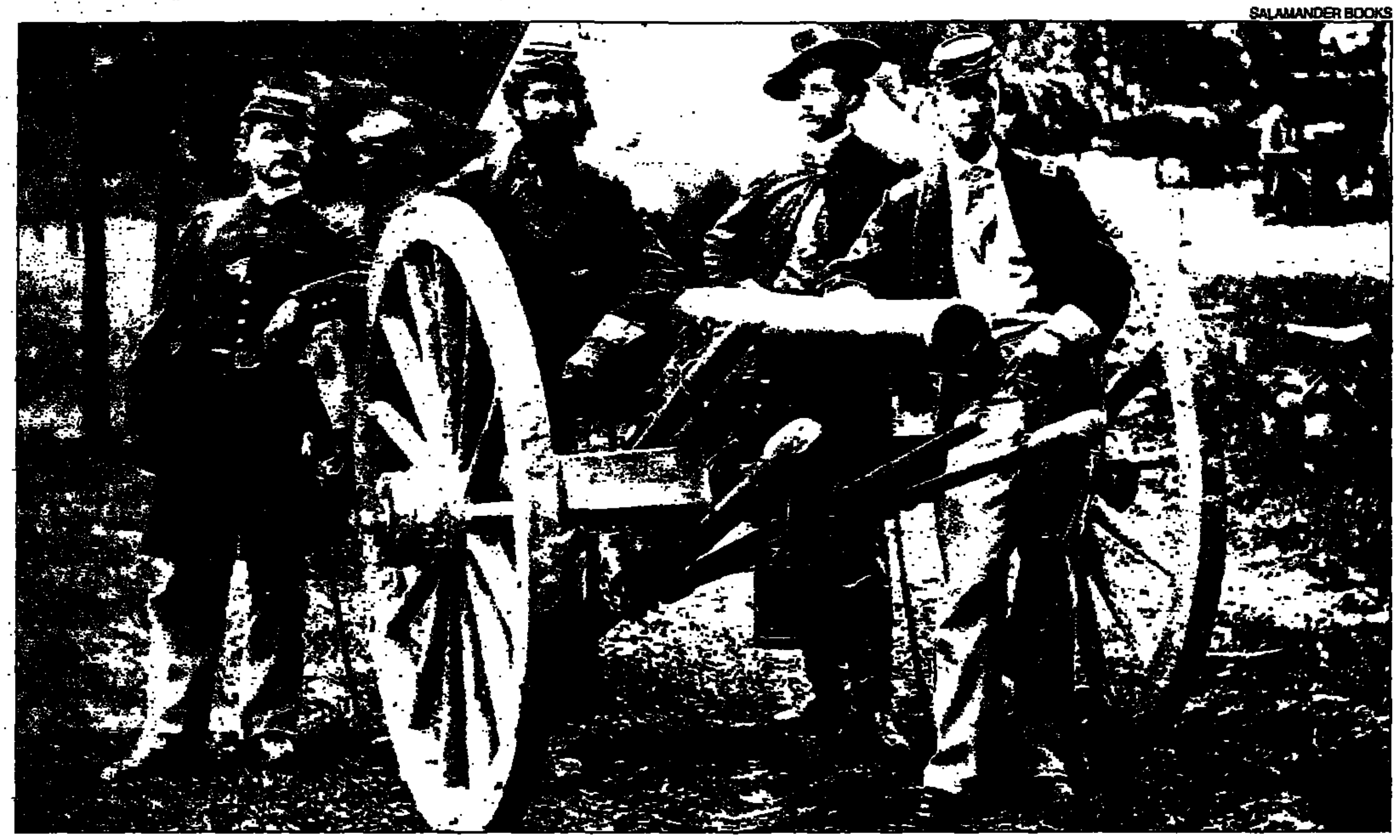
Well, all right: so the British Delegation is actually a troop of travellers venturing with Holts' Battlefield Tours through the sites of the War Between the States. Paul Young is an executive in pest control, and Jim duPriest runs Richmond Discoveries, a non-profit making company promoting Virginia's heritage and history. But where the Civil War is concerned, the distinction between centuries is easily blurred.

In Richmond's palatial Jefferson Hotel we encountered Annette Wetzel, a no-nonsense hospital matron in hoop skirts who handed us lint and bandages and warned us against the evils of card-playing. First *Sergeant Paul Maynor, whom* we met at Malvern Hill, had different views altogether on cards, and demonstrated how dice could be *made* from Minié balls, the bone-shattering soft lead bullets of the time. Most dramatic of all, on the battlefields of Petersburg, where the Union's General Grant held the city under *siege for ten months*, we watched a brigade of Louisiana artillery men gallop into the field, unhitch their cannon and fire with a smash of grey smoke and sulphur.

If you are the kind of person who recoils in horror when members of a theatrical company descend from the stage to prey on a hapless audience, *which only wants to* have a nice quiet evening, this sort of thing may alarm you. Don't let it. I am cursed with a low embarrassment threshold, but again and again I sat enraptured, convinced of the virtues of what they call, on the battlefields, "Living History".

We began in Richmond, Virginia, the former Confederate capital, where our hotel overlooked the James River and the Tredegar Iron Works — now an arts centre — where the plate for the Confederate ironclad warships was once milled. Virginia takes great care *of its history*: President Jefferson Davis's White House *stands* almost exactly as it did 130 years ago, its furniture, auctioned off after the war, painstakingly retrieved. Outside the city, the same care can be seen everywhere. The hamlet of Appomattox Court House, where Lee *surrendered* to Grant in April 1865, looks just as it did then, and has been a National Park since 1933. Here, as at all the battlefields in Virginia, there were knowledgeable rangers to lead us round. In the high, hot summer it was possible to simply stand in a field and contemplate the enormity of war and hear the whispers of the *dead*.

SALAMANDER BOOKS



The tours follow in the footsteps of the soldiers, visiting the major battlefields of the Civil War from Apamottox Court to Gettysburg

For five days our coach took us around Richmond and out into the country, where the names have a terrible resonance in American history: Manassas, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Chancellorsville. We broke for a July 4 weekend in Washington DC, and then moved north to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, scene of the South's "high-water mark" and the beginning of the end of the war. Here the state owns all 25 sq miles of the battlefield; farmers lease the land on the understanding that they allow tourists to wander through their crops. The state licenses the guides, too: many of them have Master's degrees in history, and all have sat a 200-question, eight-essay Gettysburg exam. For three days we had the leisure to explore the battlefield, or the pretty, historic town which, incredibly, emerged practically unscathed from the conflict.

An artillery charge is re-enacted at Petersburg in Virginia

Tackiness in the town is not kept entirely at bay: in a shop selling Union and Confederate uniforms I also found, for $21.95 (£14), a moulded-rubber severed foot, complete with protruding bone and gobs of blood — the ideal battlefield accessory for the "wounded re-enactor".

HOLTS' Battlefield Tours has been taking parties of amateur war historians round the world for nearly 20 years. Paul and Barbara Snook, our leaders on this ten-day expedition, have been *doing it since 1987, when Mr* Snook put 28 years of military service behind him. His background, however, is always in evidence, and not simply because of knowledge of military history. Mr Snook runs a tight ship; this isn't a trip for the faint of heart. In sodden 100F heat we were on our coach by nine every morning; often we weren't back until six. But if you are a Holts' traveller, this is exactly what you're after. The loyalists (some of the people in my group had been on 20 trips) are soldiers in the field of history. If the "new birth of freedom" engendered by the American Civil War is your passion, you couldn't do *much better than to ship out* with Holts'.

ERICA WAGNER

How to get there

☐ The author travelled as a guest of Holts' Battlefield Tours (01304 612248, inquiries and reservations; 01304 612338, brochure order line). An 11-day Gettysburg tour from July 3-14 costs £1,535 per person.

☐ Another US Civil War tour to Georgia from May 18-30 following Sherman's March to the Sea costs £1,595 per person. Prices of both tours are based on twin-bedded accommodation on a bed and full American breakfast basis with Welcome and Farewell dinners, receptions, museums and other *visits included*.

☐ For anyone interested in the Frontier Wars, Holts' offers a 13-day tour from October 7-20 that *travels* through the spectacular desert, prairie and mountain scenery of "*The Old Wild West*", and includes a visit to the Grand Canyon. £1,845 per person based on shared *twin accommodation and* includes bed and full American breakfast, Welcome and Farewell Dinners, *two picnic* lunches and other visits and activities.

US TRAVEL TIPS

☐ The US Welcome Directory of hotels and inns for the independent traveller to New England, New York State and Eastern Canada costs £9.95, and is available at bookshops or by mail order from the Directory (01923 821469).

☐ HarperCollins' has recently published *$25 and Under: A Guide to the Best Inexpensive Restaurants in New York.* (£7.99).

☐ For students and under-26s, STA Travel (0171-937 9962) offers *return flights Heathrow-JFK New York from £156. Open to all are return* flights Heathrow-JFK New York from £169. Both departures must be before March 31. The ticket is valid for 12 months.

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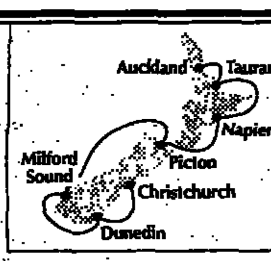

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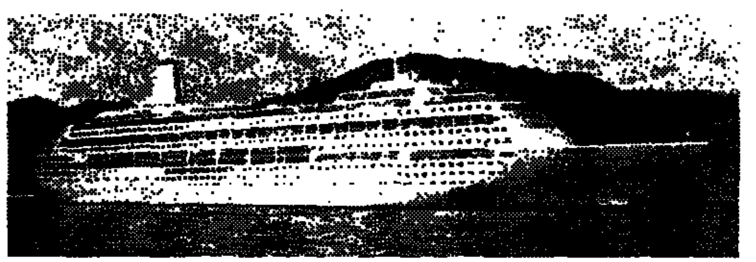

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SHOPPING IN LISBON: What to buy in the city and where to find it

Crafty Portuguese temptations

Shopping in Lisbon is a delightfully old-fashioned and leisurely affair. In the heart of the city centre there are tiny baker's, grocer's and butcher's shops alongside shoe shops, hat shops and jewellers.

The opening hours, too, reflect an era before round-the-clock convenience: generally shops open at about 9.30 in the morning and close for lunch from 1-3pm, re-opening until 7 at night. On Saturdays the shops close at 1pm.

For shops with the most character, head uphill along Lisbon's famous cobbled pavements into the elegant Chiado district and the picturesque, tiny backstreets of the Bairro, which together form Lisbon's Bairro Alto quarter.

Azulejos, or tiles, are an integral part of Portugal's artistic heritage. On practically every street in Lisbon, they adorn house façades as well as interiors. Sant'Anna, in the Chiado, is a venerable tile company established in 1741.

The shop's tiles and ceramics are made at its Lisbon factory following old-fashioned methods, with much still done by hand, and the tile size remaining the 14cm x 14cm of former times. Designs are based on the traditional blue, yellow and white rustic-patterned tiles (750 to 2,500 escudas/£3 to £10), depicting flowers, birds, sailing ships, plants and Moorish-inspired geometric patterns.

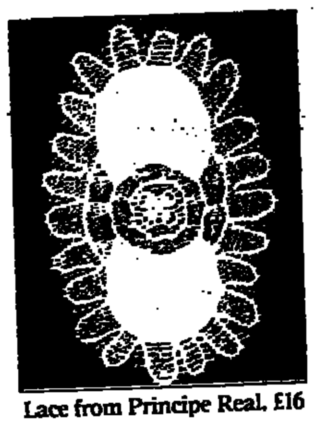
Large tile panels are also available, based on 10th-century designs, in classic blue and white showing hunting, pastoral or religious scenes (150,000 esc/£610 per sq metre). For an insight into contemporary tile-making visit Ratton, in the nearby Bairro Alto, which was set up seven years ago to revitalise Portugal's tile-making legacy.

Ratton commissions, displays and sells tiles by mainly Portuguese contemporary artists, such as Paula Rego or Antonio Costa Pinheriro. Here tiles are bought as works of art, from a single tile costing 6,000 esc (£24) to splendid limited edition panels priced at 95,000 to 750,000 esc (£386 to £3,049).

Another characteristically Portuguese craft is lace-making, traditionally an occupation of fishermen's wives. Principe Real, established by Maria Cristina Castro 60 years ago, specialises in hand-made lace from the village of Peniche, and in fine embroidery.

The elegant, old-fashioned shop has a large selection of table and bed linen, from exquisite hand-embroidered floral napkins with matching place mats (8,900 esc/£36 for mat plus napkin) and embroidered tablecloths (14,000-180,000 esc/£57-£730), to a cotton bedset decorated with a design made for the present Queen of Sweden (35,000-49,000 esc/£142-£200, normal to kingsize).

The shop will design and make hand-embroidered tablecloths and napkins to match your best china or even your wallpaper, and receives orders from around the world. Allow three months for delivery as the work is intensely time-consuming.



Lace from Principe Real, £16

Sant'Anna tile, £3 to £4

CHRIS WINDSOR

Vista Alegre water flask with silver top, £160; right, Teresa Ferreira and Maria Emilia Lopes display table and bed linen at Teresa Alecrim

In the heart of the Chiado, Teresa Alecrim is another dainty shop offering an attractive selection of bed and table linen, including traditional Portuguese white or cream cotton bedspreads (single 5,300-6,500 esc/£22-£26; double 7,600-11,000 esc/£31-£45).

This is a good place for souvenirs and presents, from embroidered pot-holders (550 esc/£2.20) and tea-towels (880 esc/£3.50) to Portuguese cotton damask tablecloths (5,540 to 8,850 esc/£22.50 to £36).

Vista Alegre is a grand old name in Portuguese porcelain, founded in 1824 by Jose Ferreira Pinto, a wealthy Portuguese merchant, and noted for the quality of its wares. When upmarket wedding lists are drawn up in Lisbon it is to Vista Alegre that brides-to-be come, selecting what they would like from a huge range of porcelain tableware with 70-piece dinner services priced from 105,000 to 1,000,000 esc/£427 to £4,065.

Goods range from colourful tea and coffee cups (950 to 3,000 esc/£3.80 to £12) and salt and pepper ducks (2,000 esc/£8 each) to *famille verte* coffee pots (24,550 esc/£100) and beautiful blue and white Margao vases (12,900 esc/£51), whose shapes and colours reflect Portugal's historic links with the East.

Discreetly tucked away in a Bairro side-street, Feitoria is an interior decoration shop containing some elegant and unusual items. These include antique Oriental ceramics and Portuguese tableware, such as a traditional 19th-century pewter tureen and platter (tureen 93,100 esc/£378; platter 42,850 esc/£174); contemporary mirrors with gilded, hand-carved frames (75,000 to 150,000 esc/£305 to £610) and fine Mottahedeh ceramic reproductions of museum pieces made in Portugal by Vista Alegre.

For those who prefer antique-hunting in markets, Lisbon offers the Feira da Ladra, the "Thieves' Market", which spreads out in the squares behind S Vicente de Fora in the ancient Alfama district on Tuesday and Saturday between 7am and 4pm.

Among the jumble of goods and bric-a-brac are old tiles, glass decanters, soup tureens and serving platters and a profusion of Catholic images, from paintings of the Virgin Mary to crucifixes and rosaries. Lisbonites of all ages join the tourists strolling from stall to stall in search of bargains.

JENNY LINFORD

Bric-a-brac in the Thieves' Market: from tureens to rosaries

Shopping facts and figures

Embroidery from Principe Real

☐ Sant'Anna, Rua do Alecrim, 95 (00 35 11 342 2537/fax 347 6746). Amex/-Diners/Mastercard/Visa cards accepted; mail order.

☐ Ratton, Rua Academia das Ciencias, 2C (00 35 11 346 0948/fax 573483): no credit cards.

☐ Principe Real, Rua da Escola Politecnica, 12-14 (00 35 11 346 5945/fax 343 1455). No cards accepted; mail order.

☐ Teresa Alecrim, Rua Nova do Almada, 76 (00 35 11 342 1831). Credit cards accepted.

☐ Vista Alegre, largo do Chiado, 18 (00 35 11 346 1401). Cards accepted; mail order.

☐ Feitoria, Rua da Academia das Ciencias, 2A (00 35 11 347 6241/fax 347 0021). Cards accepted; mail order.

☐ Feira da Ladra (Thieves' Market), Streets behind S Vicente de Fora.

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Follow my leader: cross-country skiing in Norway. Right: enjoying the wide open spaces on the slopes of Voss and, below, a picnic in the snow

Mind the elk and the white Zulu

'We have so few skiers making their loud conversations on the slopes, that the moose, or elk as we call them, are *coming back. Families of them. We have seen the tracks, and the trains* keep knocking them down. Soon there could be more elk than people," said a Norwegian skier wryly on a bright sunny Saturday at Voss, near Bergen.

For peace and quiet and a delightfully "green" lack of ski-factory impact on the slopes, Voss is just the ticket. The sleepy little town of 7,000 inhabitants on the edge of a lake is not in any sense a ski resort, but it is heaven for those sick of hour-long *queues at Verbier or tired of the soulless commercialism of Tignes, where they would make the moose* buy lift passes.

Sometimes you even have your own personal run. True, the 40 kilometres of piste might become unchallenging for the most expert of skiers by the end of a week, but besides unlimited off piste there is plenty more than downhill skiing. And, of course, this is Norway, a land both strangely strange and oddly normal.

"As *it is a lovely day we will go* cross country," *announced Einar, the* head of the ski school. The other member of this huge ski school class turned out to be the godson of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. A white honorary Zulu.

The really interesting business with cross-country skis is not the going up hill: That is merely exhausting and you know why the champions all have heart rates of about 35 beats a minute. The fun starts when, under a flawless blue sky, you get to the top of your first hill.

Instead of the reassurance of a ski boot and a hefty plank of ski under it, you are wearing calf-soft leather boots that only connect to the extremely thin ski on the front by a hinge. The ski is very, very narrow. It *feels as* if one *is* balancing on high *heels. But try sliding downhill on stilettos.*

All *the* way we passed *polite* Norwegian families picnicking or poling along. Huts have been established throughout the mountains, which you pay for if you spend the night there. They trust you. When you ask about crime, the people scratch their heads. The previous night our white Zulu had left his wallet stuffed with cash and credit cards in a crowded piano bar. He was not going to bother to go back for it *when it was returned, untouched.* The only serious crime anyone could seem to recall since the Second World War was a group of satanists who burnt down a church.

On our cross-country skis, Einar took us to a remote hut where he said two sisters lived who were constantly *visited by men. He gave an impish* smile. Anyone who could *manage* sex after that hill would deserve it.

And, true enough, the snow was rutted around the hut. But, Einar informed us, the romantics were using a different type of ski, the telemark, which meant they could ski back more quickly to have dinner with their wives.

The white Zulu was determined to master the telemark. The skis are much wider than cross country skis. The boots are a bit *heavier* but *still* joined at the front by a hinge. The difference is that telemark skis have a smooth underside akin to the downhill and unlike the fishscale undersurface of cross country. To turn, you have to get into the most exaggerated straight-backed-*down-on-one-knee position, crossing the downski in front of the uphill* ski.

The Zulu ended up in what can only be called Rorke's Drift. He checked out a snowboard for the afternoon. The area was perfect for the white Zulu snowboarder.

The slopes are very well maintained in Voss. A poor soul died of a heart attack on the giant slalom run on my first day and was neatly bundled up and off the mountain before one could say stray moose. The *second day a parascender crashed into a high voltage line. All that he injured was his pride, and the* tempers of the two or three souls swaying on the stationary chairlift.

One can easily walk from the bottom of the cable car to most of the hotels, although they provide a minibus. Boots and skis are sensibly left up the mountain.

It is fascinating to wander around the village. Children play in almost car-less streets. Voss appears to be a perfect vision of Our Town. The sort of place where Steven Spielberg could film *ET2*.

Pleasant, happy places don't usually have a good nightlife. Yet our hotel, the Jarl, had a splendid cellar disco called The Castle which stayed open until three and, in spite of beer being £4 a pint, was booming.

Heartbreakingly beautiful Norwegian *girls with Meg Ryan pouts* seemed to outnumber the boys by four to one. The white Zulu was on the warpath with his traditional weapons of aftershave and Gucci loafers. But it all came to nothing.

"I came over here with the army," said Paul, who runs the café at the top of the cable car where cheeseburger and chips costs about £6, and is modern NAAFI perfect. "I stayed and it's magic. Everyone knows everyone else. And it's so friendly." This was *underlined when we came down the mountain and the man who owns the* cable car *drove its final load back* to various hotels. When was the last time that happened to you in Avoriaz?

For me Voss is a find. The gentle beauty of the Norwegian mountains combined with the gentle loopiness of the inhabitants is alluring: whether or not you are a moose.

PAUL PICKERING

A weather eye for family fun

It was with an infectious giggle that the effervescent Gerd Fleischer explained a more exotic Norwegian ritual: "You roll it around in your mouth and then, if someone across the *table has* annoyed you, pop it *out at them!" She was talking,* needless to say, about a sheep's eyeball.

Steamed, smoked sheep's head is Voss village's ancient traditional speciality, and now, to the disgust of the locals, adopted all over upland Norway. *Each guest is served a half head on a plate with a* leek in its ear; beginners eat only the tender cheek, but the *cognoscenti* polish off everything but the bone. Don't worry, however; you are unlikely to be offered one by accident. Orders have to be *placed* weeks in advance.

The bubbly Gerd, improbably *now a grandmother, ran* the local *tourist office until* she *married* Olav, the fourth generation of the Fleischer family to run the wonderful old hotel that, with the village's magnificent wood-spired 13th-century church, is Voss's best-loved landmark.

Fleischer's *sits* right at the *foot of the mountains, almost next to the little* railway station, *with views from the* wood-panelled *dining room* out over the *frozen* placid expanse of Vangs lake.

The most remarkable statistic about skiing in Voss is that the resort itself is less than 200ft above sea-level, a fact brought home by the fabulous views from the little train that crawls up from Bergen by the side of the fiords.

But snow cover *is guaranteed by the northerly latitude and a lift system which rises to* 3000ft. It is just a few *minutes'* walk from Fleischer's to the primitive but efficient little cable car which takes only four minutes to transport skiers, 24 at a time, up to the first slopes at Hangur, from where there are spectacular views over the lake and the low pine-covered mountains beyond.

The Norwegians like to sell Voss as a family resort, with some justification. The broad and for the most part gentle slopes are ideal for building the confidence of small children still at the snowplough stage, while a few of the *gradual linking paths are just steep enough for them to tuck* their poles under their arms and schuss down without parents worrying too much about Eddie the Eagle-style stunts.

My pair of would-be piste-pounders, Patrick, ten, and Oscar, 7, *both found it ideal, if* a trifle cold still *this early in* the season. The Voss lift attendants could learn from their Swiss and Austrian counterparts and emerge from their heated cabins to sweep chair lift seats clear of snow, if only to prevent their smaller customers complaining of *"wet bottoms" all day.*

Both Patrick and Oscar also managed to fall off the 3,600ft-long T-bar drag lift which rises 900ft up Slettafjell to the most popular skiing area. But both managed to blame it on "Mummy" who came a cropper too.

At least the snow on either *side,* though deep and *therefore* hard work *to* plough *through, was soft and access back to the main slope relatively easy.*

Behaviour at the lifts was one of general politeness. On several occasions people would stand back in the queue and gesture us forward with an, "After you", unheard of in the Alps. The lack of crowds is a major plus for skiing in Norway. For children and beginners, tuition in English *is readily available.*

In short: a stress-free introduction *to* family *skiing, as* long as the *grown-ups* have remembered their hip flasks.

PETER MILLAR

● *The author travelled as a guest of Norway's flag-carrier airline, Braathens S.A.F.E., which now operates daily flights from London Gatwick direct to Bergen.*

Fact file

☐ Paul Pickering was a guest of British Midland Airways (Heathrow-Bergen costs £170 return, plus travel tax, if booked a week in advance). He was also a guest of Norwegian State Railways, which connects the short run *between Bergen and Voss.*

☐ Crystal Holidays (0181-399 5144) has a programme in Norway and may include Voss in 1996. Bed and breakfast accommodation at Fleischer's Hotel with two sharing a double room costs about £100 each.

A week's half board accommodation *at the Rondo Sportell, a simple hotel,* costs about £200.

☐ A ski pass costs about £80 for seven days; full downhill ski equipment is £40 a week; ski school costs £50 a week.

WORD WATCH

Answers from page 29

RURBAN

(a) Combining the characteristics of both country and town; designating an area sharing both rural and urban ways of life. 1981, *Country Life*: "To draw attention to this unsatisfactory rural-urban development, the Second Land Utilisation Survey has given it a distinctive name: rurban fringe."

QUISLING

(c) A traitor to one's country, a collaborationist, especially *during* the *Second World* War. Taken from the name of Major Vidkun Quisling, a Norwegian officer who collaborated with the Germans *during their occupation of* Norway from 1940 to 1945. C. S. Lewis in *Christian Behaviour*: "The results of bad morality. . . press on us every day: war and poverty and graft and quislings and *shoddy* work."

PONGAL

(b) The Tamil New Year festival at which new *rice* is cooked; hence, a dish of cooked rice. 1809, *Asiatic Annual Register*: "The Hindoos visit and compliment each other, wishing a happy pongal, or *many* happy *returns* of that pongal, for the preservation of each other."

SCRONCH

(b) A kind of slow dance among American Blacks. Also *schronch* or *scrunch*. 1974, *Black World*: "In Polk country, place where the blues are *born, place where they dance the scronch and the belly-rub."*

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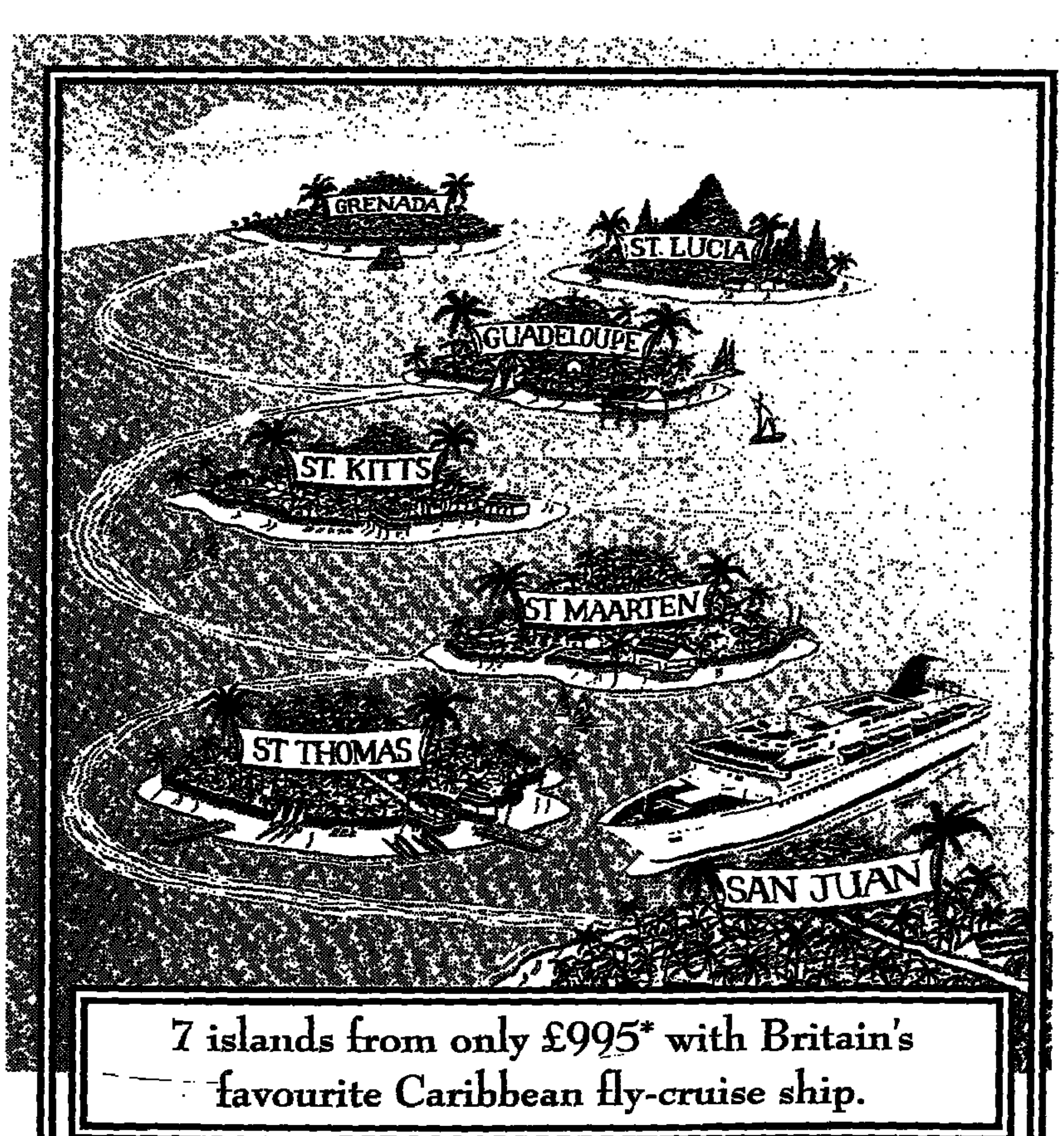

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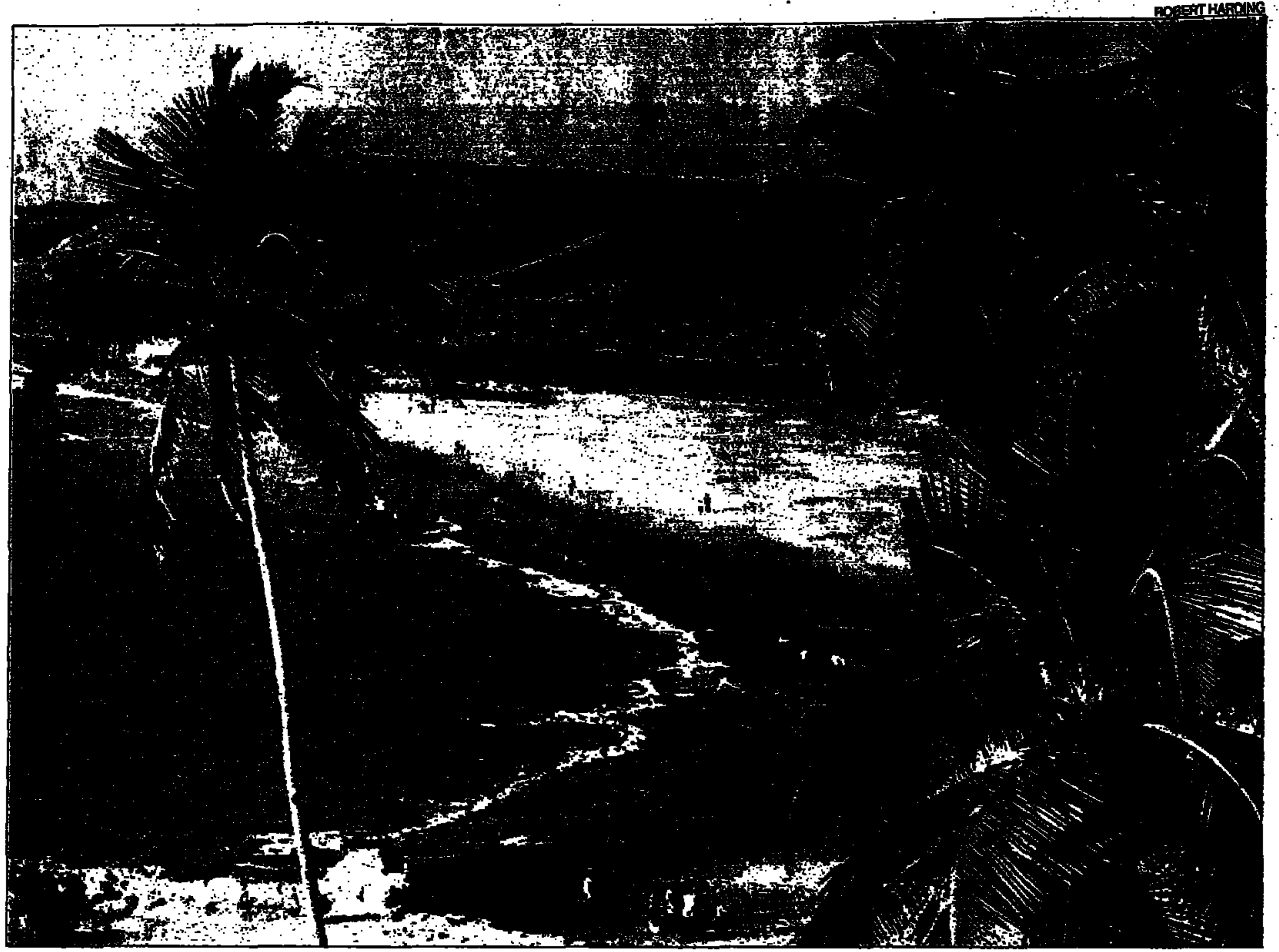
INDIA: A glorious week in Goa drifts by as **Brian MacArthur** succumbs to its golden charms

A sense of peace in a sunlit place


ROBERT HARDING

"Goa remains a world away from the teeming life of India's great cities, an easy-going land with 65 miles of mainly unspoilt beaches and a tropical climate"

Swimming into shore from the Arabian Sea with the sun beating down at nearly 90 degrees, a mile of golden sand fringed with palm trees stretched ahead, with perhaps a hundred people sunbathing, a few cows grazing, and, dotted among the palm trees, two or three of the simple restaurants that would soon be serving curries made fresh from the fishermen's morning catch.

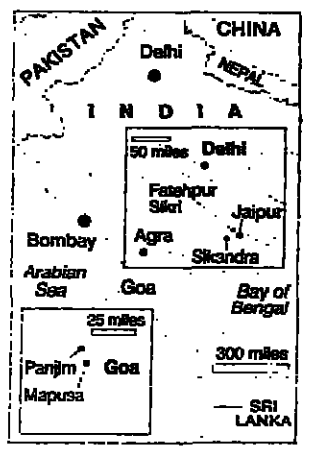
This is Goa, quiet, unspoilt, uncrowded, the holiday idyll we all seek, and it is worth going soon before the rest of the world discovers its charms.

There are two ways of going to Goa. One is for a lazy, hedonistic holiday on the golden beaches, perhaps with a three-day outing to the Taj Mahal. It is much more worthwhile, however, to go there as we did, on a Thomson package, after a week feasting on the magnificent sights of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur — sights so stunning and so upsetting of every Western pre-conception that words seem unable to capture the exhilaration of first discovering the India of the mogul emperors and the realisation that here — as Lord Curzon noted — was a civilisation far superior to the England of Elizabeth I and James I.

The Taj Mahal — a tear on the face of eternity, as the poet Tagore so eloquently put it — is perhaps the most familiar tourist sight in the world. Yet even the tourist guides admit that the mind-numbing beauty of this monument to love, built by Shah Jahan in memory of his favourite wife Mumtaz Mahal from 1632-1649, never stales.

A serenity falls as soon as the beggars at the gates are left behind and you enter the vast gardens in which the Taj is set, the monument itself so ethereal, graceful, timeless and beautiful that it defies belief.

St Francis's in Old Goa



We saw it on a bright afternoon when the marble shone and then, suffused in pink as the sun set, from the heights of Agra Fort, when it seemed still more ethereal and still more memorable.

If the Taj Mahal is the outstanding sight of the "Golden Triangle", there are many others that challenge it — the Red Fort in Delhi, Akbar's Mausoleum at Sikandra, the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri and Jaipur's Amber Fort.

Sated by a week of contemplating such glorious wonders, Goa becomes the setting for an unashamed week of rest and relaxation and at prices far cheaper than the Caribbean or the Mediterranean. Goa was a backward Portuguese colony without electricity, roads or bridges until 1961. Thirty years later it remains a world away from the teeming life of India's great cities, an easy-going land with 65 miles of mainly unspoilt beaches, a tropical climate, evergreen countryside, inland hills, forts and churches and Hindu temples, paddy fields and coconut groves. Nor is there any of the shocking poverty of the cities. The population of Panjim, the capital, is only 60,000 and the 1.2 million Goans mostly live in stone or brick houses set off the roads among the banyan trees.

Meanwhile, Goa is nurturing tourism carefully and avoiding the horrors of the Mediterranean. There are strict height restrictions on hotels, no building is allowed within 200 metres of the high-tide line, and shore developments have been strictly controlled so that hotels cannot be seen from the sea.

Our hotel, the Majorda Beach, 30 minutes south of Panjim, was a short stroll from one of the most unspoilt beaches. The rooms were spacious, with balconies overlooking lush tropical gardens where hammocks swung between the palms.

Our sunlit Goan days passed in a somnolent haze of swimming, reading and eating. There was breakfast in the garden, with papaya and pineapple, eggs and omelettes with bacon or, for more intrepid spirits, a dhosa marsala, a jumbo pancake filled with cauliflower curry. Then to the beach, where waiters from the nearest restaurant arrange your sunbeds and a constant supply of drinks. An hour's onslaught from the hawkers selling jewellery, silks, pottery, leather goods, even massages. The women are so beautiful, so polite and the price of their wares so cheap that any irritation evaporates against the onslaught of their beguiling smiles.

A swim in the warm sea. Lunch in the shade of one of the makeshift "shack" restaurants built new each year from palm fronds and set at the edge of the beach, where a family of four can eat and drink for £10 from a selection of curries or meat or fish. More reading. More swimming. A bike ride along the beach. And then, accompanied by the cawing of the rooks, the mesmerising Goan sunsets, one night a magnificent crimson that sets the sea and the beach on fire, another glorious yellows fading into azure as the sky darkens and the beach falls quiet.

At night those who prefer to play safe eat in the hotel garden from buffets offering roast meats, fish, curries, puddings and fruit. Yet by Goan standards, the hotels are a rip-off, even though a meal won't cost you much more than a fiver. It is much more fun — and so much cheaper — to eat on the beach. The curries are better and there is a sense of romance to eating under the stars with the sea lapping gently a few yards away that is hard to beat, especially on nights when there is a barbecue, accompanied by fireworks or a beach bonfire that burns past midnight as the 30p brandies roll in. Seven days in Goa brought a sense of utter peace.

Sight-seeing tours — to the markets at Anjuna and Mapusa, to an Indian spice farm, to crocodiles or dolphins — are on offer for those who want them. Our one tour — to Old Goa — was well worth a day away from the beach. Once the capital, when the Vatican was the real ruler of Goa, the city was abandoned in 1835 and is now a ghost town where only six of the original 14 churches are in good condition. But what glorious churches — all World Heritage Monuments — they are. There is the vast Basilica of Bom Jesus (good Jesus) built between 1594-1604, with its gilded Baroque high altar and near by the silver casket enshrining the mummified remains of St Francis Xavier, Goa's patron saint. Across the road is Se Cathedral which, with 15 altars, is one of Asia's largest churches. Near by is the Convent and Church of St Francis of Assisi, which contain Goa's best examples of Portuguese religious art, and the Archaeological Museum.

Everything that the India buffs say about it is true: nobody who visits India returns the same person. Our holiday surpassed all expectations. Still, weeks later, I cannot get the vivid, colourful, pulsating images India presents in its teeming cities or in the slow, tranquil life of the endless countryside out of my mind. I was left with an abiding impression of the flashing smiles, the gentleness and the courtesy of every Indian we met. I shall return.

- *The drawing of the Church of St Francis of Assisi is from David Gentleman's* India *(Hodder, £30)*

* * *

How to get there

☐ The author travelled as a guest of Thomson WorldWide.

☐ The Indian Adventure begins with two nights in Delhi followed by a night in Agra and three in Jaipur returning to Delhi for the last night. The tour is combined with a week in Goa at either the Majorda Beach or Goa Renaissance hotels. Prices range from £969 for 14 nights, with full board on tour and B&B in Goa.

☐ Two weeks in Goa from the Thomson Faraway Shores brochure start at £409 B&B. A three-day visit to the Taj Mahal, Delhi and Fatepur Sikri is £399, including hotels and flights. You are not required to vacate your room in Goa.

☐ Brochures from travel agents or ring the Thomson Holiday Shop on 0171-707 9000 or 0161-911 9000.

☐ Medication: Seek guidance on vaccination and malaria from a doctor. Drink only sealed bottled water.

☐ Max temperatures: October, January-March: 85F-90F; April, May, November, December: 91F. Avoid June, July, August, September.

☐ Beaches: Louise Nicholson, who leads tours for Abercrombie and Kent and Cox and Kings, recommends Vaiguinim (quiet, no hawkers, good for sport), Harmal (very quiet), Palolem ("paradise"), Colva (busy, with fishermen and lively market), and Baga (shops and restaurants).

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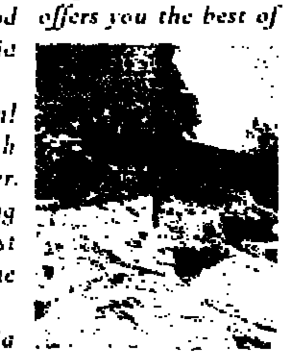

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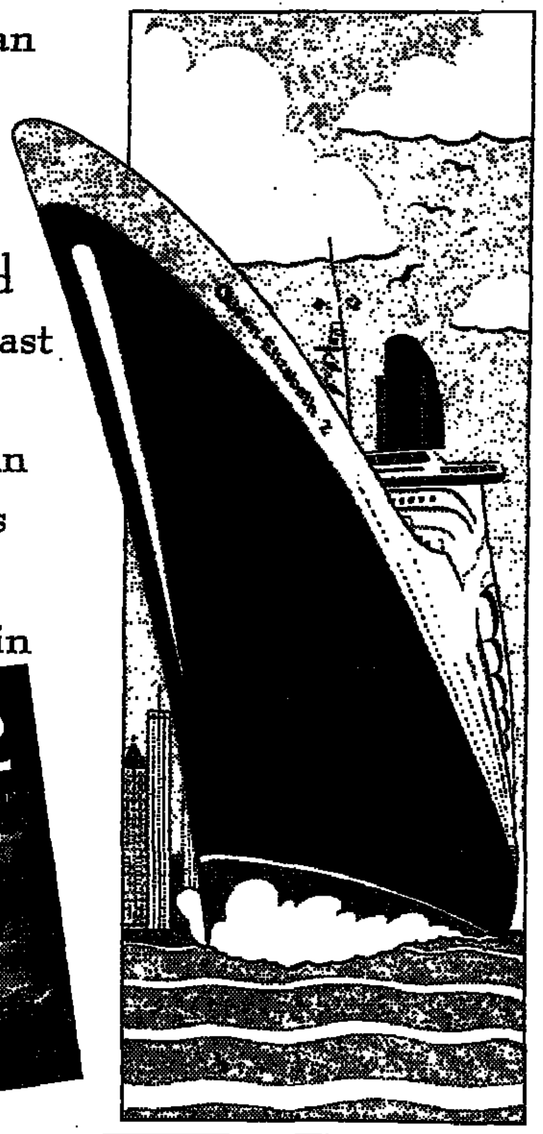

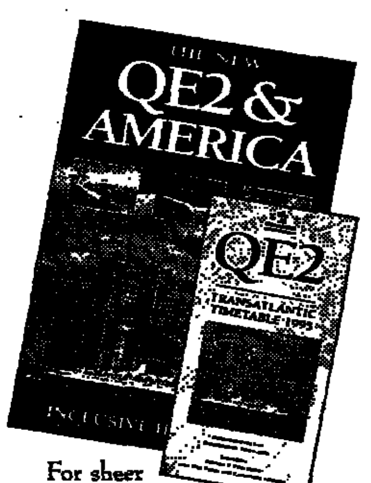

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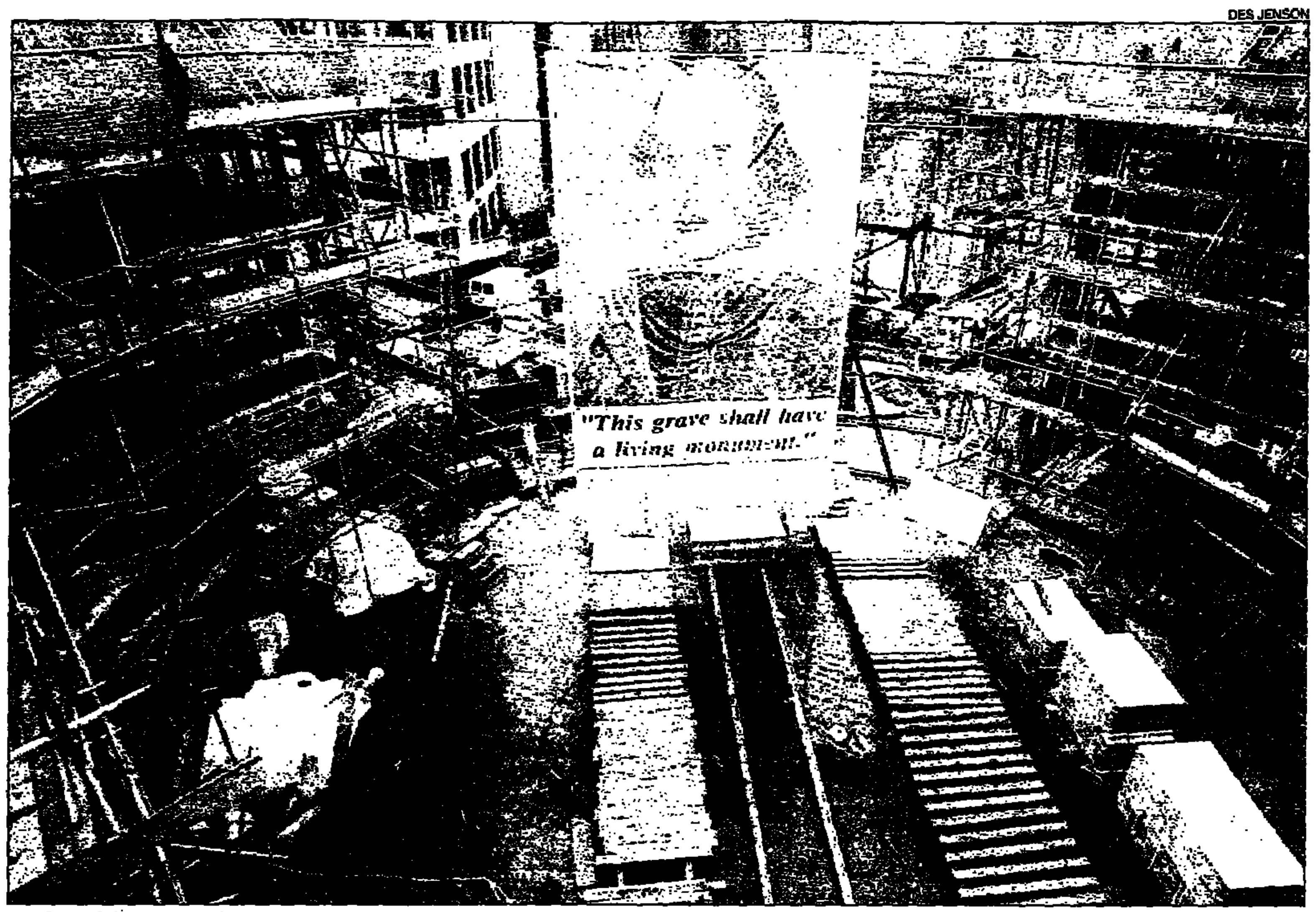
LONDON ARTS SEASON: In only its second year, the event looks set to become an annual highlight

Capital celebration of the arts

A winter break in London. It's the stuff of nightmares: arrival at a station a world away from the West End, and at a hotel close to the station but nowhere else. You are forced to abandon the pile of "what's on" flyers gathered in reception because by the time you plough through them it'll be time to go home. Your feet hurt, your stomach is rumbling, what you came to see is sold out, and the rain has made it through to your vest.

But it doesn't have to be like that. The London Arts Information Centre, at the British Travel Centre in Regent Street, acts as a central co-ordinating body for both Londoners and out-of-towners wishing to explore the London arts scene. By ringing the centre during February and March (see fact file) you can access London's arts, heritage and live entertainment through packages which bring together, for example, *The Three Graces*, Vladimir Ashkenazy and *Miss Saigon* — or, if you prefer, Sherlock Holmes, Shakespeare's new/old theatre and *Buddy* — as well as hotel rooms and rail tickets.

Use a London White Card to visit the Imperial War Museum



One of the season's highlights is Shakespeare Day on February 9, which features a guided tour of the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre

The London Arts Season, which begins next week, sounds like a calendar fixture, alongside Wimbledon Fortnight or Fashion Week, but this sanity-saving marriage of the arts and tourism is only in its second year.

It was the idea of Sir Basil Feldman, a member of the English Tourist Board. "ETB research showed how popular our artistic and entertainment programmes were," he said, "so it seemed a waste not to celebrate them and make them more accessible for visitors."

The figures are impressive. Visitors to Britain specifically drawn by its arts and heritage spend about £2 billion, and more than half of all visitors come to enjoy our cultural activities. United Kingdom residents who holiday in the country spend £500 million on performing arts events. And London is at the hub of it all.

"But London's range of choice can be very confusing for visitors; they usually have to rely on the hotel porter or a friend living here to tell them what to see," Sir Basil said.

So last year London's quiet season — post-Christmas and pre-Easter — saw the harnessing of the arts as a great tourist draw, bringing audiences to theatres — Fringe as well as West End — and concert halls, visitors to museums and galleries and business to hotels and restaurants. It worked, selling 43,000 extra tickets and boosting London's tourism income by £20 million.

It has cost at least £1.5 million to set up the 1995 season, with sponsorship from Forte, Radisson Edwardian Hotels and London News Radio, support from the London Arts Board and the Society of London Theatre, and funding and organisation from the English Tourist Board and the British Tourist Authority.

Listed in a special brochure are more than 250 events, all of which can be booked through the London Arts Information Centre. The brochure also carries the free London Arts Card which gives discounts at arts venues and restaurants.

During the eight-week season there are 26 special events. On Wednesday (February 1), for instance, the opening day, you can have supper at the Ad Lib restaurant before watching *Miss Saigon*, and being given a backstage tour (£55); the following Sunday you could take a guided tour of Hidden London, its crypts, Roman remains and secret chambers (£17.50, including a pub lunch); on February 23 there is a special private early morning view of the Royal Academy's new exhibition, *Nicolas Poussin* (£17.50, including continental breakfast).

Shakespeare Day, on February 9, features a guided tour of the reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre followed by lunch at the Barbican Centre and a matinée performance of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Love's Labour Lost* (£59). Other events include an interview with Yehudi Menuhin after a concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (March 3, £39) and a guided walk through Christopher Wren's London, followed by a pub lunch (March 5, £15.50).

Some of the 26 events, like the workshop presentation by the cast and crew of *Cats*, are repeated during the season, and the V&A's Champagne Jazz Brunch is available every Sunday during the season.

Last year some of these events had to be cancelled because there had not been enough advance take-up, but this time they are all underwritten by sponsorship, so that bookings can be made up to 24 hours before the event.

The 1995 season also includes musical packages: for example, *Cats*, *Starlight Express* and *Sunset Boulevard* over three days for £55 — a saving of £32.50.

The London White Card — offering discounted admission for three or seven days to 13 museums and galleries ranging from the Natural History Museum to the Museum of the Moving Image — was introduced in last year's season and has become a permanent fixture. The concept will be extended in 1996 with plans for a Red Card for theatres and a Blue Card for concert halls.

The original intention was to make the season biennial, but last year's success ensured it became an annual fixture — and preparations are already under way for next year's event. "Last time we had to go to arts organisations and persuade them that it was a good idea," Lynne Burton, the season's director, said. "This time they have come to us.

"Our relationship with the venues means we can now offer the musicals discount packages at savings of 30 per cent or more."

SIMON TAIT

Fact file: London Arts Season

☐ The London Arts Season Events Guide, containing the London Arts Card which offers discounts on some shows and restaurants, can be obtained free of charge by ringing 0171-814 5088.

☐ Bookings for hotels and rail as well as exhibitions and performances can be made by ringing the London Arts Information Centre at the British Travel Centre, 12 Regent Street, London SW1 (0171-839 6181) from January 30, or the Art and Music Club (01727 834422) before and during the season. A free arts map of London is provided with every booking. You can also book in person in London at the Harrods Theatre Desk and at any branch of Keith Prowse. There is a 24-hour London Arts Season Ticket Line, operated by First Call, which is 0171-396 4777.

☐ The London White Card, with museum admission discounts, is also available from the London Arts Information Centre, the outlets mentioned above and the museums. For an individual adult it costs £14 for three days, £23 for seven days, and for families of up to two adults and four children the cost is £29 (three days) and £50 (seven days). The card covers the following museums: the Barbican Art Gallery, Courtauld Institute Galleries, Design Museum, Hayward Gallery, Imperial War Museum (Lambeth site), London Transport Museum, Museum of London, Museum of the Moving Image, National Maritime Museum, Natural History Museum, Royal Academy, Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Musem (although it may exclude certain special exhibitions).

☐ Forte, one of the sponsors, is offering London Arts Season packages. For information call Forte direct (0345 543555, for details of inclusive packages, or 0345 404040 for hotel accommodation only). Radisson Edwardian Hotels, the official partner of the Society of London Theatres, is presenting London Arts Season special events in its restaurants. For information call 0800 335588. Packages including hotels and shows (both concerts and theatres) are also available from Superbreak. Call 0904 679999 for details.

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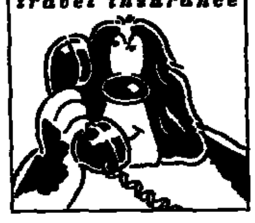

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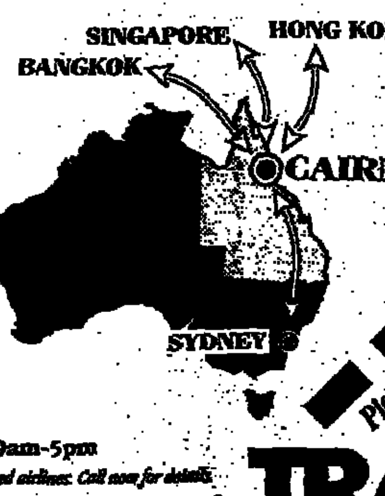

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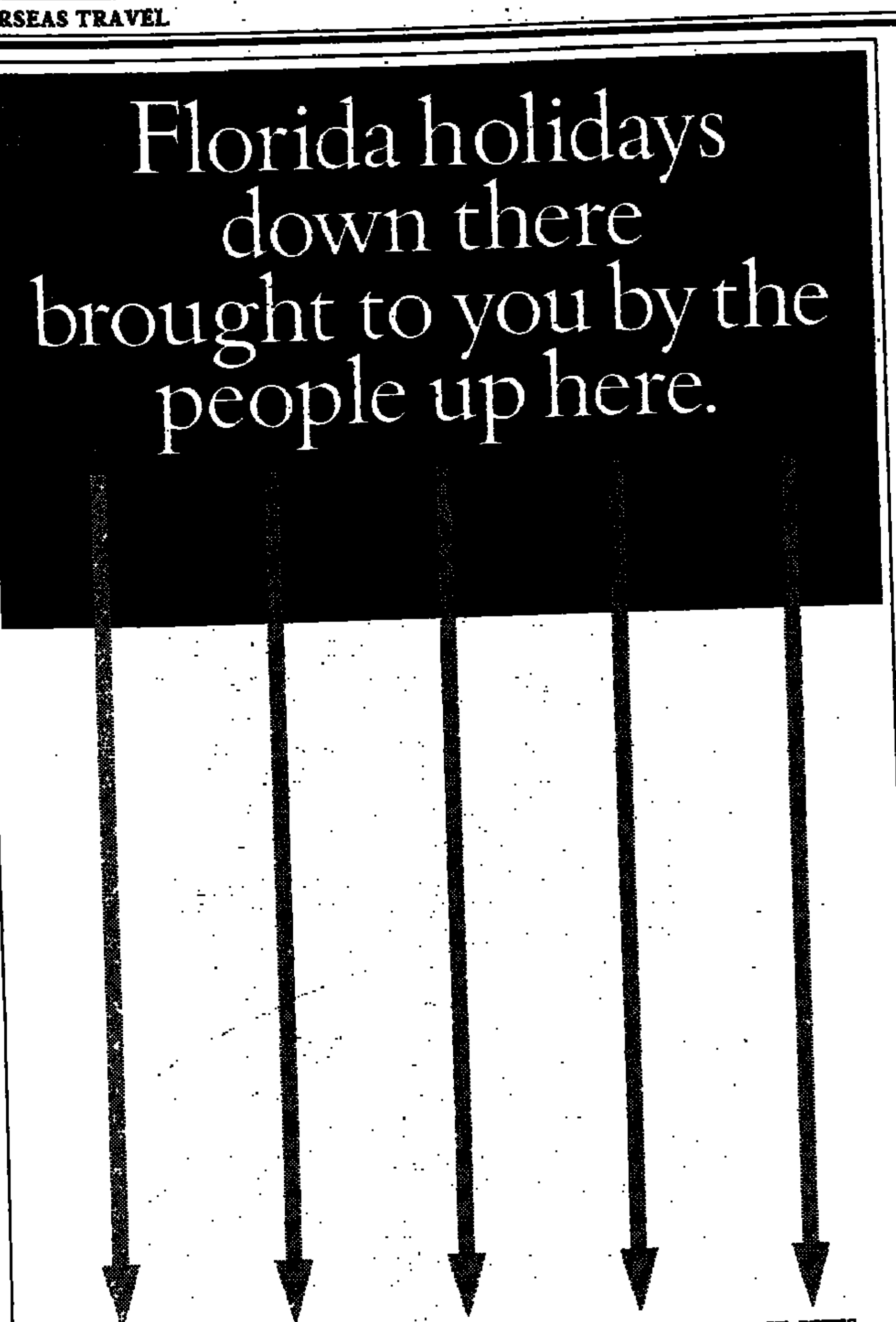
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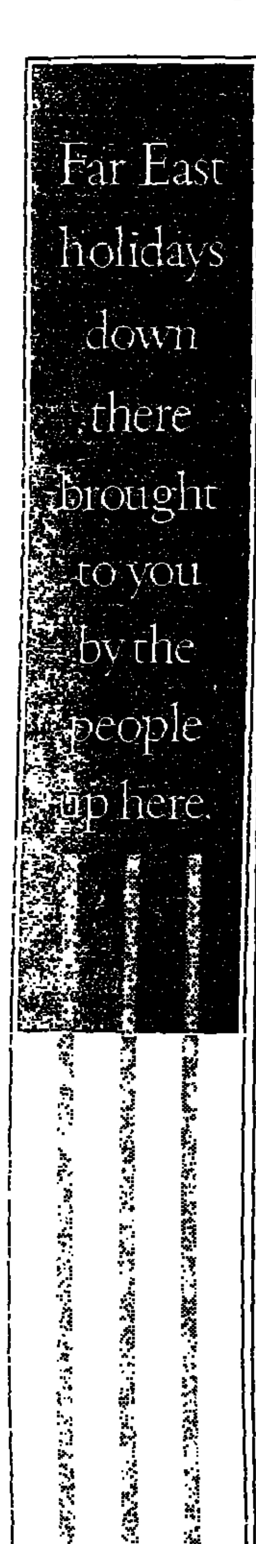
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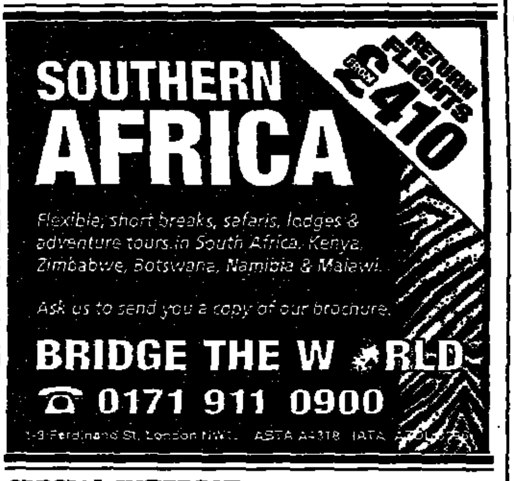
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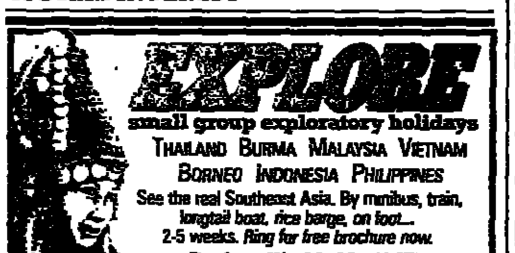
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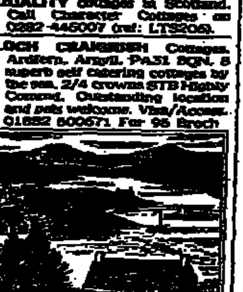

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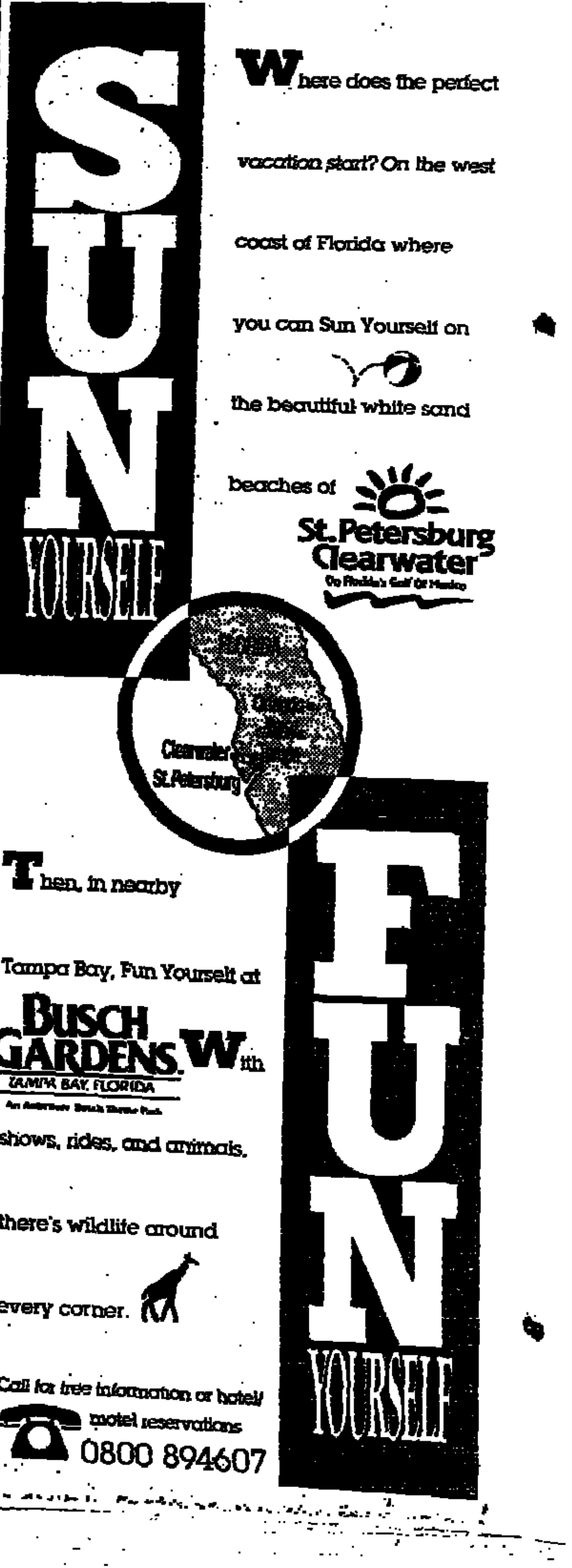

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GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

WHILE reviewing which books most influenced me in my early years as a student of chess, I narrowed them down to a vital ten.

They were Nimzowitsch's *My System*; Alekhine's *My Best Games 1924-1937*; Réti's *Masters of the Chessboard*; Clarke's anthology *Tal's Best Games*; Botvinnik's book on the 1941 *Absolute Championship of the USSR*, a volume which included many of his own best games; *500 Master Games* by Tartakower and Du Mont, and then, astonishingly, four books by the same author.

These were the world championship books of 1948 and 1954, and the best games of Réti and Capablanca — all by my predecessor as chess correspondent of *The Times*, the Grandmaster Harry Golombek. Each of them was a classic of the art of chess writing.

Following Golombek's death three weeks ago, current *Times* readers may like an example of the style which led David Bronstein to describe him as "the world champion of chess writers".

Golombek had a superb ability to bring the drama of a game alive, as when he described a game between Gunsberg and Réti as "some antediluvian monster being annihilated by a modern weapon of destruction". His heroes were José Capablanca and Richard Réti, so here he is on a clash between them.

Réti, as White, began with a Réti Opening. Calling this innovation one of the subtlest of starts, Golombek went on: "Whole new vistas were opened up to opening students — lines that could not be played by rote according to existing book theory, but which demanded native intelligence and inspiration. That it could result in beautiful attacks both on the king and queenside this game is sufficient to show. Réti's victory over Capablanca came as a thunderclap to an astonished chess world. Capablanca had acquired an almost mythical reputation of invincibility. His defeat in such fine style by Réti was a resounding blow struck for the hypermodern school."

New York, 1924: Réti Opening

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 g6
3 b4 Bg7 4 Bb2 0-0
5 g3 b6 6 Bg2 Bb7
7 0-0 d6 8 d3 Nbd7
9 Nbd2 e5 10 Qc2 Re8
11 Rfd1 a5 12 a3 h6
13 Nf1 c5 14 b5 Nf8

The game has reached a critical phase in which both sides have to make definite choices about their plans of campaign. Broadly speaking, each choice resolves itself into one between defence and aggression, and Capablanca now seems to prefer the former: 15 e3.

White makes the opposite choice, deciding to break open the centre with e3 and d4. 15 ... Qc7 16 d4 Be4 17 Qc3 exd4 18 exd4 N6d7. Here the threat of a threat is stronger than its execution. Black has overlooked White's 22nd move. Correct was 18 ... Ne6. Play continues:

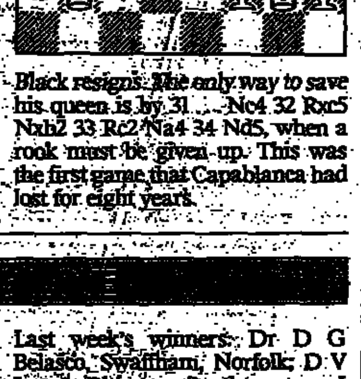
19 Qd2 cxd4 20 Bxd4 Qxc4
21 Bxg7 Kxg7 22 Qb2+

This most important intervening check throws a bright light on Black's many weaknesses.

22 ... Kg8 23 Rxd6 Qc5
24 Rad1 Ra7 25 Ne3 Qh5
26 Nd4

This is as brilliantly combinative as it is positionally fine. 26 ... Bxg2 27 Kxg2 Qe5. (Black loses quickly after 27 ... Rxe3 28 fxe3 Qxd1 29 Nf5.)

28 Nc4 Qc5 29 Nc6 Rc7
30 Ne3 Ne5 31 R1d5



Black resigns. The only way to save his queen is by 31 ... Nc4 32 Rxc5 Nxb2 33 Rc2 Na4 34 Nd5, when a rook must be given up. This was the first game that Capablanca had lost for eight years.

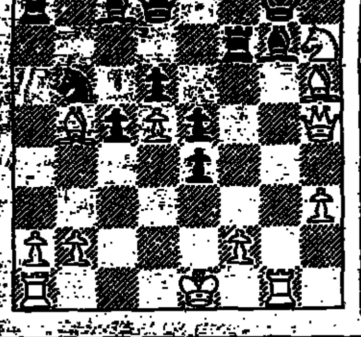
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Brynell - Dysing, Stockholm 1995.

White has a powerful attack on the open g-file. How did he now capitalise with a fine sacrifice? Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxh7+

Last week's winners: Dr D G Belasco, Swaffham, Norfolk; D V Jones, Bitterne, Southampton; I Barker, Southend on Sea, Essex.



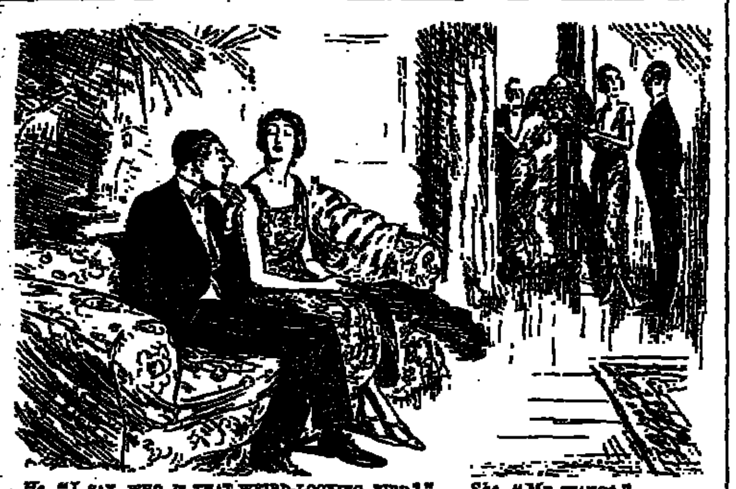
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon caption 42, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 1.



He. "I say, who is that weird-looking bird?" *She.* "My fiancé."
He. "Ah, thanks. That's all I wanted to know."

"It was the tomato liberation front"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Philip Spencer of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RURBAN
a. Being both rural and urban
b. Indian head-gear
c. Of reddish-brown hue

QUISLING
a. Puzzling
b. Waste produced in metalwork
c. A traitor

PONGAL
a. Pungent
b. A rice dish
c. A game played with fish bones

SCRONCH
a. To crush into a ball
b. A slow dance
c. A potent liqueur

Answers on page 23

COMPUTER GAMES

MIRAGE'S "Rise of the Robots" is proving something of a hit. Fighting games usually appear unnecessarily vicious, but when clanking robots wrestle it becomes a lighter affair altogether. You're never left feeling genuinely bruised and battered when you lose — just entertained but in pieces.

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The display monitors a running digital printout, which is not really necessary. The graphics are rich and slick; the robots move smoothly, and both the effects and the music, written by the former Queen guitarist Brian May, hit the right chords.

"Rise of the Robots", available on CD-Rom, PC floppy, Amiga and Game Gear formats, is not a vast game but what you get works very well. Its appeal is well rounded and glides across all age groups.

Moving on — when Philips announced this month's release of "The Joy of Sex on CD-Rom", the mind boggled. To be more specific, it is a CD-Rom based on Alex Comfort's book, *Joy of Sex*. We are told that the book has so far sold more than 18 million copies in several languages since it was first published in 1972.

In a fun way, Philips insists, the multimedia title takes you through all you ever wanted to know about sex, lovin' and more. Only a few years ago the video market spawned all those grubby little lovers' guide videos, which in the main turned out to be an excuse for cheap titillation. Apparently. Let's hope this isn't about to herald the arrival of a similar landslide of multimedia titles. It is difficult to know whom *Joy of Sex* is aimed at. A good part of the market will probably turn out to be those flush enough to buy the CD-Rom just to show it off at drinks parties.

Cyberspace Twelve offers six readers the chance to win six titles boasting a dozen games from Empire Interactive. The first three, on CD-Rom, are: "Dawn Patrol — The First Air War", which mixes First World War dog fights with a multimedia experience of the era; "Campaign II" and "Dreamweb". The next three, on PC floppies, are the compilations "Award Winners Gold", "Award Winners Platinum" and "Combat Classics Two".

To enter, review any new game in your collection, good or bad. Entries must be highly legible and between 150 and 350 words. Please give the full title of your selection, the format on which you have played and the producer of the product, together with your name, address and telephone number. Mark your entry: Cyberspace Twelve, Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The closing date for the competition is midnight on Tuesday February 7, and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN ONE of my Refresher columns I made the comment that an opening bid of one of a suit "shows 9 to 21 high card points". Some readers took issue with me on the range. Today's column is about assessing minimum and maximum One bids, and what you should be thinking about when deciding whether to open.

In the hands below, you deal at love all. You are playing a weak NT (12-14 points). What is your opening bid?

1. ♠K98732 ♥Q43 ♦AJ ♣J2

Pass: Some books on hand evaluation advocate adding a point for each card over four that you have in your longest suit. Thus any hand with a six-card suit is awarded two extra points (or more if it has another five-card or longer suit). So some players would evaluate hand 1 as having 13 points — 11 high card points (HCP) and two for distribution. But even though it has the magic 13 points that does not make it an opening bid — when you are considering a minimum opening, suit quality is important, and it is also good to have your other high card working together. Here the suit is poor, and the scattered honours in the other suits have dubious value.

2. ♠AJ10953 ♥32 ♦A1084 ♣4

One Spade: By contrast, although this hand has only nine HCP, it is very well put together. Its main suit is excellent — the 10 9 in conjunction with the jack are extremely valuable cards, making the suit at least the equivalent of say A Q 5 4 3 2, and the remaining high card is in the second longest suit. Make the hand:

♠AJ10953 ♥A2 ♦10842 ♣4

and I would pass, although I dare say many of the juniors would still open.

3. ♠KJ942 ♥5 ♦1083 ♣AQ54

Pass: Another consideration with a marginal two-suited opener is, can I show both my suits? The good feature of hand 3 is that it will play well in either spades or clubs. The downside is that if your partner responds to One Spade in a red suit you will not be able to show the clubs. You would have to rebid Two Spades.

4. ♠5 ♥KJ942 ♦AQ54 ♣1083

One Heart: Here, although your hand is absolutely minimum (and I wouldn't argue strongly against a Pass), you will be able to show both of your suits.

5. ♠K654 ♥KQ ♦Q542 ♣Q63

Pass: Many would open 1NT. However, the hand has two poor features: (a) it has a minimum point-count, and no intermediate cards, which are particularly important in No-Trumps; (b) the king-queen bare holding in diamonds is not worth five points — it is inflexible as a stopper, and if you buy a dummy with a diamond suit, the blockage may prove awkward.

6. ♠K1093 ♥QJ98 ♦Q8 ♣K104

1NT: Although you have only 11 HCP, the wealth of intermediate cards make this a clear opening bid. A holding such as K 10 9 3 is superior to K 6 5 4 — consider the play opposite say J x x in dummy. K 10 9 3 is worth a certain two tricks and may make three. K 6 5 4 may not even make one trick. Another reason for opening the hand is the possession of Q 8 of diamonds — if partner has A x x or K x x it is better for the lead to run round to the queen. In marginal cases, holding Q x can tip the balance in favour of 1NT over One of a suit or Pass.

7. ♠AQJ62 ♥AK94 ♦AKJ3 ♣-

Two clubs: You cannot possibly risk opening One Spade. If everyone passed you would be very nervous waiting for dummy to be put down. Six cards to the queen in a red suit, and very little else, would make a grand slam at worst on a finesse. Notice that after Two Clubs the bidding will be able to continue reasonably smoothly — a likely sequence is:

2♣ 2♦
2♠ 2NT (or 3♣)
3♥ etc

8. ♠- ♥AK94 ♦AKJ3 ♣AQJ62

One club: After what I said about hand 7, this may seem a little rich. But there are two main differences. First, the suits are inconveniently arranged for an auction starting Two Clubs — this is the sort of auction I would envisage:

2♣ 2♦
3♣ 3♠
?

I suppose you have to bid an under-strength 3NT, but you might easily have a better contract in either hearts or diamonds.

The second point is that One Club is very unlikely to be passed out. This is in great contrast to opening One Spade on hand 7. If your partner is so weak that he would pass One Club, the opposition will have enough points to intervene, most probably in spades. Then you can continue the description of your hand by making a take-out double, and follow up with a spade cue-bid to complete the picture. A possible auction:

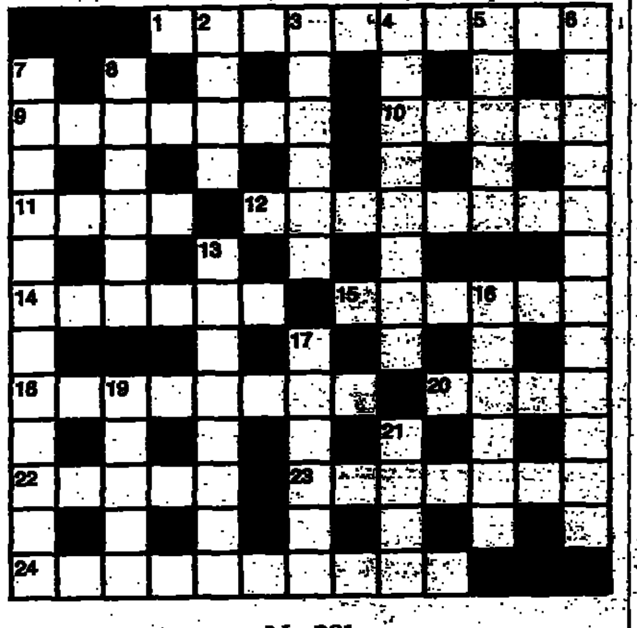
W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble[1]	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble[1]	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠[2]			

(1) Take-out (2) Further game-try

As you have bid again facing a possible Yarborough, you are marked with a super-maximum three-suiter.

THE two most important Pairs events of the year have just finished. The Cap Volmac tournament in The Hague was won by Zia Mahmood and Michael Rosenberg. The Macallan tournament finished yesterday. In the next two weeks I shall discuss hands from both tournaments.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 381

ACROSS
1 Old-time Scottish dance (3,7)
9 Contradict (7)
10 Set of eg rooms, furniture (5)
11 Show boredom (4)
12 Family servant; fee for barrister (8)
14 Not ready to pick (6)
15 Made of flowers (6)
18 Old sheriff's officer (8)
20 Ladies' fingers, gumbo (4)
22 An inspector; a code (5)
23 Thick-paint technique (7)
24 Equipping oneself afresh with weapons (10)

DOWN
2 In addition (4)
3 Gushing hot spring (6)
4 Dishonest, mischievous (8)
5 Constellation with belt (5)
6 Deliberately avoid (5,5,2)
7 Nasty bit of work (person) (4,8)
8 TV watcher (6)
13 Towards the source (8)
16 Jaunty (hat angle); fast-looking (ship) (6)
17 Aver, assert (6)
19 Hooded, warm weather-proof jacket (5)
21 On the surface of (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 380

ACROSS: 1 To capacity 7 Innards 8 Plead 10 Precede 11 Ivory 12 Scrawl 15 Jersey 17 Elver 18 Inertia 21 Serve 22 Snippet 23 Dead letter

DOWN: 1 Tinge 2 Curve 3 Pastel 4 Coppice 5 Tremors 6 Dispossess 9 D'Oyly Carte 13 Reverse 14 Warhead 16 Tissue 19 Edict 20 Toper

EXCLUSIVE FROM TIMES BOOKS: The Times Guides: English Style and Usage (HB) £8.99. International Finance, Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-5, Single European Market £9.99 each. Peoples of Europe (HB) £16.99. European Parliament - June 1994 (HB) £26. NEW The Times Guide to the New British State £17.99. The Times Maps: The World (Wall Map laminated) 62"x40" £15.99, (folded) 48"x30" £5.99. Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50, The Times 1000 1995 (HB) £33, The Times Concise Atlas of the Bible (HB) £13.99 (reduced from £15.99), The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50, Book of Brainteasers £5.49. Prices include P&P (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Return del. Tel 081 852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3290: BR's Home Base by Wolfram

This puzzle celebrates the centenary of the birth, this week, of a famous sporting figure. Each letter in the clues represents a different prime number up to and including 197.

Lights are to be entered diagonally down to the left or right as indicated. No light begins with a zero, and lights to asterisked clues are palindromic.

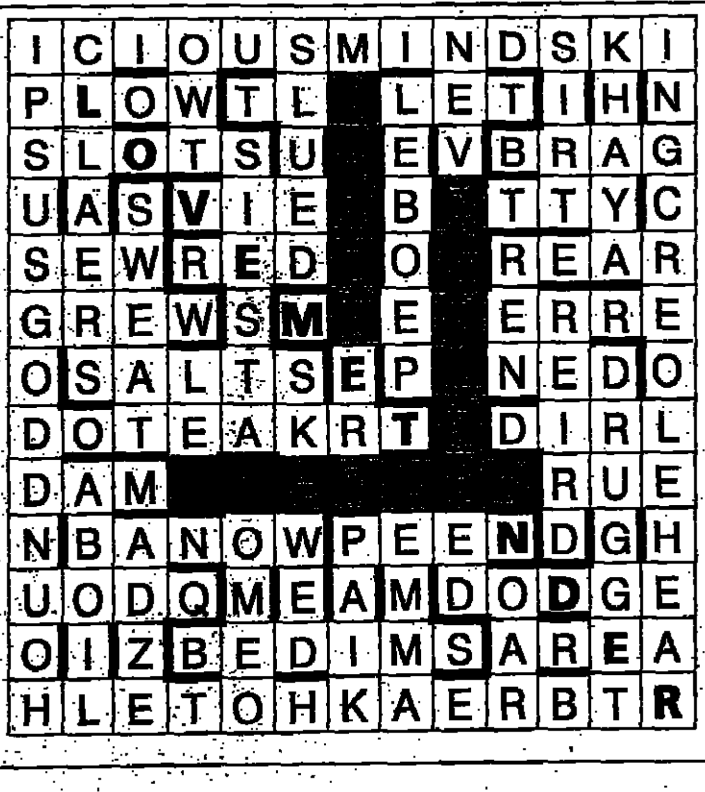
RIGHT
1 A
*2 D^2
4 (M+P) B
7 CH-J
8 (M+G) G
9 DM
*10 N
11 DQ

17 EM
18 N^2
*19 E^2
21 JN
22 (G-L) L
23 $C^2+B^2-(EQ)$
*25 F
26 $(EMQ)^2$
27 G^2
31 H

LEFT
1 D
3 C^2
5 LU
6 L^2
7 F^2
8 D^2+G+P
12 $(L+P)^2+(CQ)$
13 J
14 N^2-L

15 P^2
16 M^2+R^2
18 $K^2+J^2-(QM^2)$
*20 A+H
24 MPQ^2
28 T
29 S
30 L^2+F^2
32 K

Solvers' announcement: There are a few places available for interested solvers at the Listener Crossword Setters' Dinner (to be held in Eastbourne on March 11, 1995). *Please send a s.a.e. to P. Henderson*, 4a Callis Road, London E17 8PN for full details.



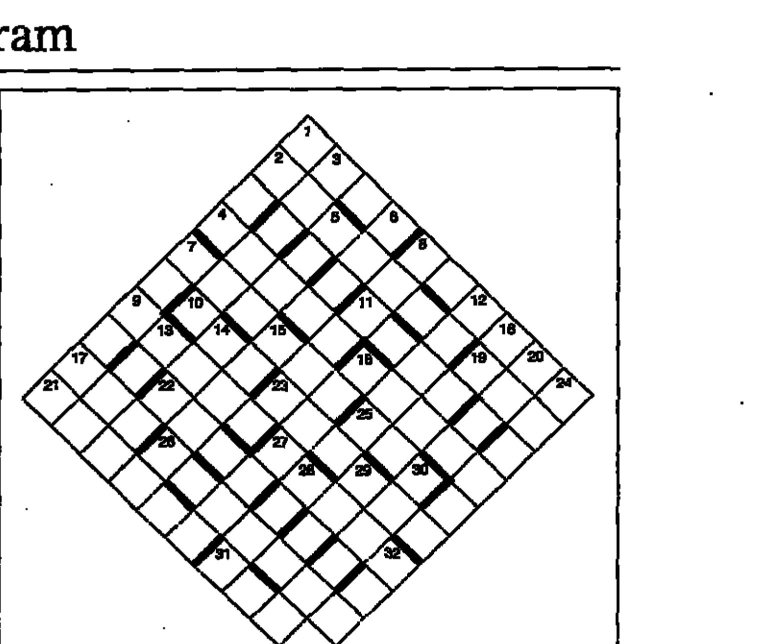
I	C	I	O	U	S	M	I	N	D	S	K	I
P	**L**	O	W	T	L		L	E	T	I	H	N
S	L	**O**	T	S	U		E	V	B	R	A	G
U	A	S	**V**	I	E		B		T	T	Y	C
S	E	W	R	**E**	D		O		R	E	A	R
G	R	E	W	S	**M**		E		E	R	R	E
O	S	A	L	T	S	**E**	P		N	E	D	O
D	O	T	E	A	K	R	**T**		D	I	R	L
D	A	M								R	U	E
N	B	A	N	O	W	P	E	E	**N**	D	G	H
U	O	D	Q	M	E	A	M	D	O	**D**	G	E
O	I	Z	B	E	D	I	M	S	A	R	**E**	A
H	L	E	T	O	H	K	A	E	R	B	T	**R**

Solution and notes to 3287, Basin by Messpot

The title Basin is the English translation of the Latin word PELVIS. The theme is ELVIS AARON PRESLEY (shaded in the grid) born 8th January 1935. LOVE ME TENDER (in bold type) runs in the main diagonal. Misprints in clue order spelt out ALL SHOOK UP, (changed (A Tallet to TLALET and 1D Callers to CLLAERS). JAILHOUSE ROCK (causing 41A Quod to be entered as UODQ and 6D Stir as SIRT), WOODEN HEART (put teak in Dort at 30A as DOTEAKRT and Bo in Leep at 10D as LEBOEP) and IT'S NOW OR NEVER (changed IT in 22A Mitre to Never as MNEVERRE and in 38A It to now as BANOW.

The perimeter yields 4 further titles starting at the square numbered 11 and reading clockwise: Suspicious Minds, King Creole, Heartbreak Hotel and Hound Dog. The alternative ARON is acceptable.

The winner was Jack Walton, of Castle Avenue, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey. The runners-up were Harold Margolis, of Telford Yard, The Highway, London, and A.R. Mills, of The Street, Cretingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3290

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

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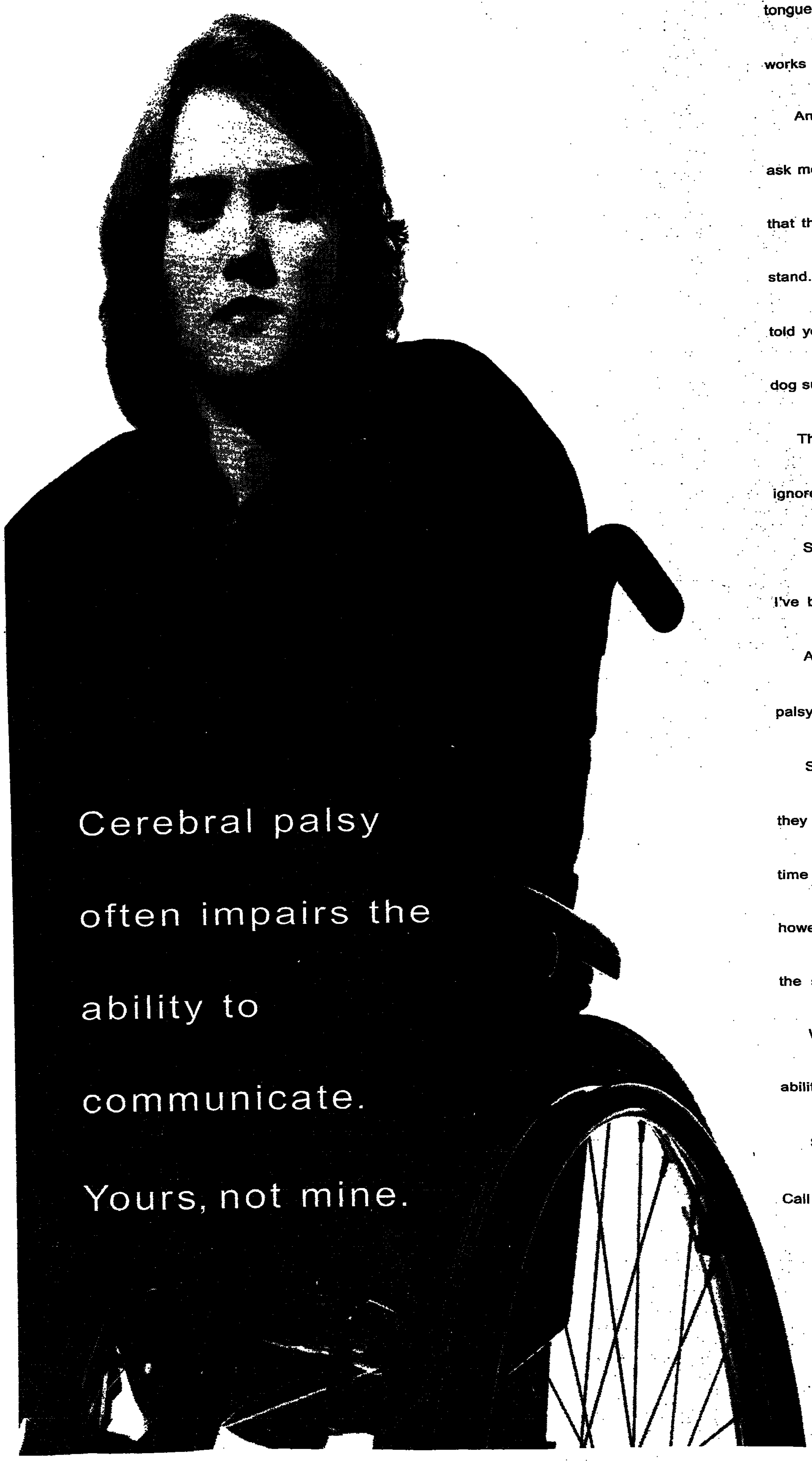
POSTCODE ....

PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers *should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The Listener* Crossword 3290, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by *Thursday, February 9.*

[illegible] من الاصل



Cerebral palsy often impairs the ability to communicate. Yours, not mine.

I know it's difficult to understand what I say. But it would be easier if people tried.

It's the muscles in my jaw and my tongue that are affected, not my mind. That works as clearly as you're reading this.

And I don't care how many times you ask me to repeat myself. I'd rather you do that than just nod and pretend you understand. For all you know, I might have just told you that you've got a face like a bulldog sucking a wasp. Not that I would.

The worst thing is when people just ignore me and look the other way.

Schools, employers, local authorities, I've been ignored by them all.

And like everyone else with cerebral palsy, I'm tired of it.

So are the Spastics Society. That's why they changed to Scope. Because it's about time that everyone with cerebral palsy, however severely disabled, was allowed the scope to live normally.

Which means not having our rights and abilities ignored.

Scope are as keen to talk to you as I am.

Call them, local rate, on 0645 486 487.

SCOPE
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Formerly The Spastics Society

[illegible]

The long and short of finding a car that fits

Page 2

CAR 95

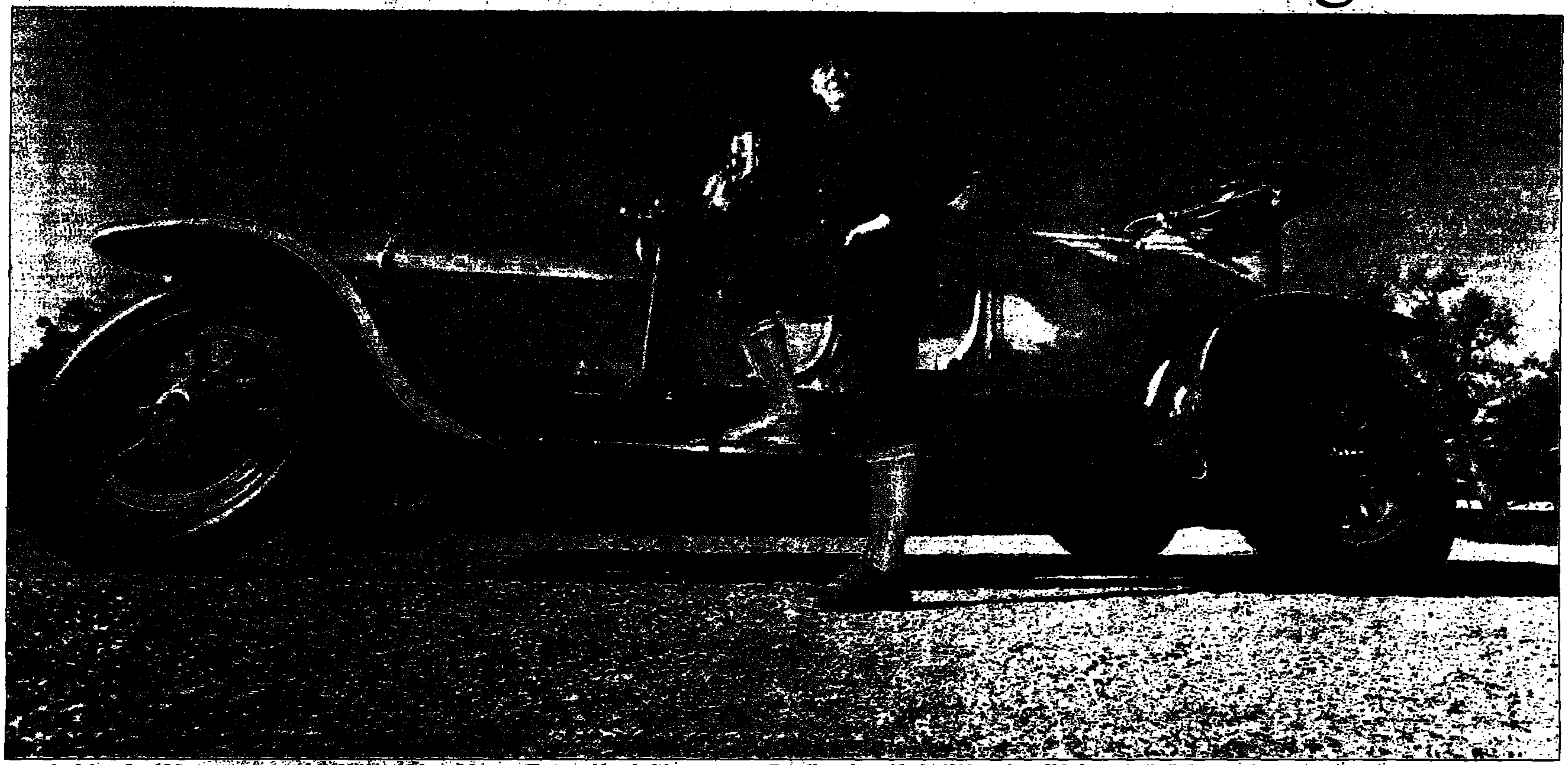
Win use of a new car for every month of the year

Page 11

SATURDAY JANUARY 28 1995

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu offers his personal selection of UK-built cars that led the motoring world

Twelve cars that made Britain great



A touch of class: Lord Montagu, creator of the National Motor Museum Trust and head of the museum at Beaulieu, alongside the 1909 version of his favourite Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Britain's fast women

Women drive faster than men and are more likely to choose the fast lane. They are also more likely to admit breaking the speed limit, according to a survey by the *Autoglass company*. A quick check by *The Times* backs up these conclusions and suggests that whether the woman concerned drives a Porsche or a Renault 5, she is likely to make male passengers nervous........Page 5

Escort passes test

Ford's new Escort is quieter than ever before, thanks to novel use of technology pioneered by medieval monks. *The Times* road test shows that the total revamp of Britain's bestselling car has improved not just the looks *but the handling and ride*, too so that the latest Escort is a vast improvement on the model introduced five years ago........Page 10

End for Green Card?

The RAC wants an *end to confusion* over the Green Card, the document issued to motorists who want to drive on the Continent. Although it is no longer a legal requirement in the European Union, some insurance companies still charge up to £45 for just three weeks cover. Others issue the cards free. The organisation is *hoping to stop* motorists from having to pay twice to take their cars abroad........Page 9

AA *Gridlock Guide* with map........Page 2
Driven to Distraction: Peter Barnard........Page 2
How Does it Work?........Page 5
Used Car Brief: Land Rover Discovery........Page 7
Dr Dashboard........Page 9
Steering Column: Laurie Taylor........Page 11

To choose 12 British cars which have made a profound impact on motoring history is no easy task: there are so many possibilities. Historians are sure to contest my selection. However, to lead up to the centenary of the British industry next year, I have chosen a dozen examples which, in performance, design, technology or production techniques, made their mark throughout the world.

It may now be largely in foreign ownership, but the British motor industry made its greatest innovations when it was still a native resource, and the names which introduced them still reverberate in enthusiasts' circles, even if some have been crowded off *the roads* by imported products.

The British industry got off to a slow start. The most fervent patriot could not claim that we were ahead of our European neighbours in design or production before the turn of the century. The first British-built vehicles to go on sale were copies of the French Leon Bollée three-wheeler, made in Coventry in 1896.

The true British strain also started in the backstreets of Coventry, with a foreign design and a foreign name. But learning from the standards set by Gottlieb Daimler led to an outbreak of confidence which set the pattern for the following 100 years.

The British Daimler company was founded by a group of businessmen in 1896 and quality was evident from the start. A veteran car enthusiast who has restored Daimlers and Panhards (the French cars with Daimler engines) of that era reported that Panhard's metallurgy was not good: many of the castings were full of blow-holes and the Daimler was much better in that respect.

By 1900, Daimler was established as Britain's premier marque. In 1903, its designs were modernised by Percy Martin and Edmund Lewis. They were still in the mainstream of conventional layout, though; far more advanced were the cars of the Lanchester brothers.

Frederick Lanchester possessed one of the most original engineering minds of his time. *His first car was completed in* 1896 and production Lanchesters followed four years later.

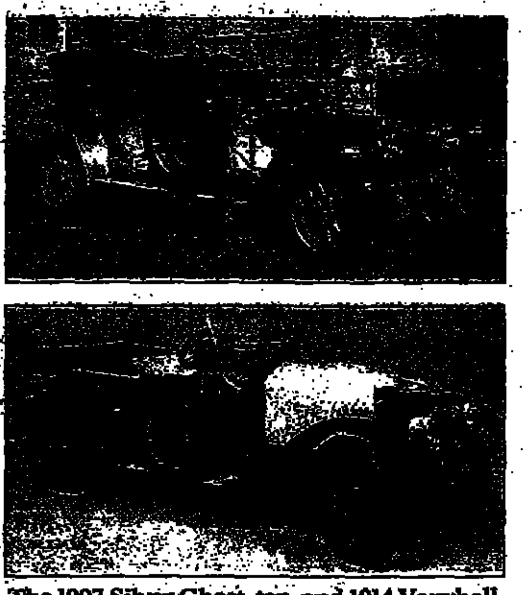
Features of these and subsequent models included horizontal engines (vertical from 1904), epicyclic gears, wick carburettor and steering by tiller, or lever as the Lanchesters preferred to call it (they adhered to this until 1911, long after everybody else had gone over to a steering wheel). Frederick pioneered disc brakes on the 1905 models, but this was a multi-disc system acting on the transmission, rather than on the wheels as in modern cars.

By 1913, the British car *industry comprised about 140* manufacturers who made 25,000 vehicles (lorries and buses accounted for a further 9,000). Rolls-Royce had become the accepted leader because of its reliability and the perfect *finish of* all mechanical parts, which gave an uncannily quiet ride. As early as 1907, *The Autocar* had written of the Silver Ghost: "At whatever speed the car is being driven ... there is *no* engine so far as sensation goes, nor are one's auditory nerves troubled".

Mass production was virtually unknown although it was beginning at Ford's Manchester factory, which *made more cars than the next* three British manufacturers combined.

The country's most important contributions to car design between 1919 and 1939 were in sports cars and quality *small cars, typified by the* Austin Seven. Launched in 1922, Herbert Austin's tiny

Continued on page 3, col 6



The 1907 Silver Ghost, top, and 1914 Vauxhall

Daimler
1899
Rolls-Royce
Silver Ghost
1907
Vauxhall Prince
Henry
1914
Austin Seven
1922
Bentley 4½ litre
supercharged
1930
Ford Y
1933
MG TC Midget
1946
Jaguar XK120
1950
Mini
1959
Range Rover
1970
Aston Martin
Vantage
1977
McLaren F1
1994

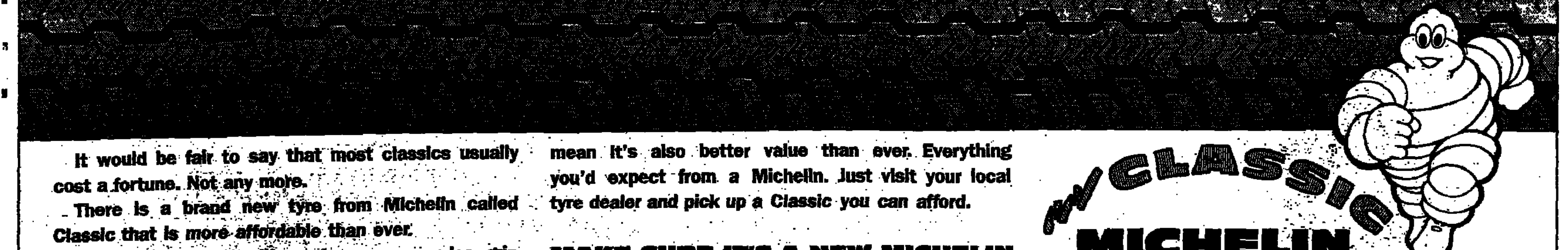
The McLaren Fl, top, and the 1946 MG TC

Which British car would you nominate as a classic? A weekend in the New Forest at the luxurious Chewton Glen Hotel and Country Club including a tour of the Beaulieu Motor Museum, personally conducted by Lord Montagu, is the prize for the best nomination.

☐ When *The Times* asked Lord Montagu to select 12 cars he accepted that his list would arouse debate. If you think he has left out an important vehicle let us know and justify your choice in no more than 250 words. Only one British-made car per letter. Send your entry to: Classics, Car 95, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by February 10.

☐ The best letter, judged with the assistance of Lord Montagu, will win for its writer and his or her partner a weekend at Chewton Glen, acknowledged as one of the *finest hotels in England* and a member of the Relais & Chateaux group. They will enjoy dinner in the renowned Marryat restaurant, and the lavish facilities of the health club and indoor pool. They will also have use of a Range Rover for the weekend. Prize subject to availability. Normal *Times competition rules apply.*

COPE



YOU DON'T HAVE TO INVEST A FORTUNE TO OWN A SET OF CLASSICS.

It would be fair to say that most classics usually cost a fortune. Not any more.

There is a brand new tyre from Michelin called Classic that is more affordable than ever.

Its impressive long life and no compromise grip mean it's also better value than ever. Everything you'd expect from a Michelin. Just visit your local tyre dealer and pick up a Classic you can afford.

MAKE SURE IT'S A NEW MICHELIN.

new CLASSIC MICHELIN

هكذا من الاصل

Traffic management? It's a route to paralysis

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

A couple of years ago in London I was given a very informative lecture by a police officer. It was the last time I parked on a double yellow line. Well, almost.

He did not give me a ticket, but he did say I was stupid. Then he said: "Do you realise that if you park here for 10 minutes, the effect on traffic will last for half an hour after you have driven away?"

Strangely, this turned out to be true. That is exactly what happens if one car parks illegally in a City street for that time. This incident turned me into a ferocious, nay boring, campaigner against such parking but I justify this by saying it is no use drivers moaning about congestion if they are a principal cause.

However, in exchange for this enlightened attitude, I want something done about maddening and unnecessary obstructions, such as temporary traffic lights. On the A4 through the centre of Bath the other day, I saw a classic example: a busy junction controlled by lights and, 30 yards on, a set of temporary lights.

The latter had not been synchronised to the former, so three or four cars would pass through the permanent lights only to be stopped at the temporary ones, thus tailing back to the first set so people had to stop while those were still at green. As soon as the temporary lights turned green, the permanent ones turned ... red. Result: mini-gridlock. This lunacy can be seen all over big cities.

Then there's that other nonsense, the bus lane. These wastelands are pure politics, a perfect example of people being thrown out of work to make things worse rather than better. We did not have bus lanes before the one-man-operated bus, because having conductors to collect fares kept buses moving. Once the driver had to be the fare taker as well, the buses stopped for inordinate lengths of time. Hence the bus lane. So where there used to be two lanes of mixed traffic, now there is one, longer, lane, plus one lane with a few buses spaced out along it. This is called "traffic management". Which is exactly what it ain't.

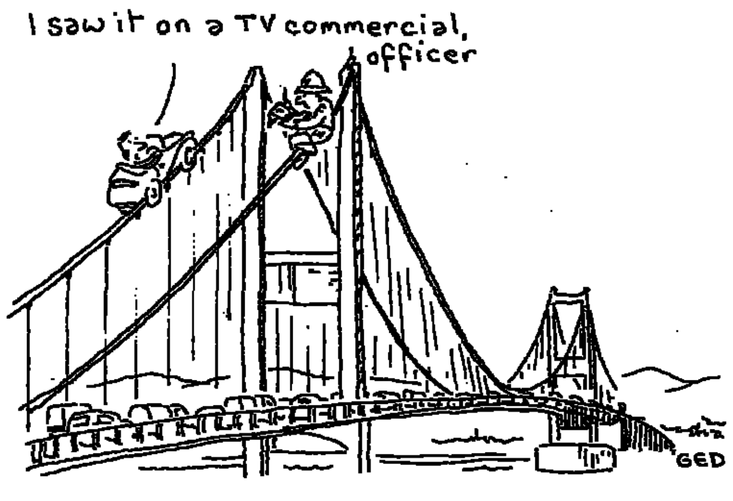
The latest Lex report on motoring offers wonderful proof that motorists want more people to use public transport — as long as the people on the public transport aren't the motorists.

It appears that 40 per cent of us think the Government ought to invest more in trains and buses, but only a third of us would use our cars less if public transport was improved. Clearly most drivers aren't going to give up their cars, no matter that the car population is expected to double in the next 15 years. We want better public transport so *other* people will give up their cars, at least until they discover that increased demand for public transport has made trains and buses crowded, hot, filthy places.

At which point they will all get back in their cars.

I see that papa and Nicole are now being visited by papa's mama and at the news of mama's impending arrival, they set off in two Renault Clios: her to collect *grandmère* and he to have his hair cut. It is my fervent hope that other members of the family start rushing for their car keys whenever the phone rings so they can all perish in a self-inflicted multiple pile-up.

The mini soap operas that advertise Renaults are only one example of the maddening tendency of these commercials to shy away from any risk of us finding out what the car is actually like. I absolve Rover and Ford, both of whom support the old-fashioned notion that we want information. Most others have allowed their advertising agencies to overrule their better judgment, with the consequence that car commercials are now directed by people who appear to be preparing a video cv for putative Hollywood employers. Research in *The Times* has shown that most people remember the adverts but cannot remember the product, which is a damning indictment. If car companies insist on being obtuse, they will at least have to start being memorable. I commend them to the classic example of the American cat food company that changed the name of its product to Miaow with the slogan: "The food cats ask for by name." Now that's advertising.


I saw it on a TV commercial, officer
GED

Finding cars that fit is no easy business, as two of our writers found when we sent them to report on ...

The long and the short of it

ANDRE CAMARA

The view from on low, and on high: petite Alexandra Frean peers out from a Mercedes E320, while lanky Vaughan Freeman carefully manoeuvres himself into a tight spot

5ft 1in: a week on a rack would not help Alexandra Frean in some cars

When a survey discovered that nearly 40 per cent of women aged between 20 and 44 were 5ft 3in or under, the fashion retailer Next immediately produced a "petite" range of clothes for little women. Sadly, the motor industry has been less versatile.

Although four in every ten cars are bought by women, manufacturers are still alienating hundreds of thousands of them by churning out vehicles in which many simply cannot reach the pedals. Buying a small car, surprisingly, is not necessarily the answer. It took me nearly eight years to realise that the occasional backache I suffer from is inflicted by the repeated action of extending my left leg to full stretch when changing gear in the various Ford Fiestas I have owned.

I tried out a number of second-hand small and smallish cars in an attempt to find a more comfortable alternative. The 1991 Vauxhall Nova and the 1992 Vauxhall Astra were pretty much on a par with my Fiesta — I was unable to reach the clutch easily and had to push the seat so far forward to do so that my view in the passenger seat wing mirror was impaired.

By far the most comfortable small car I tried was a 1992 Citroën AX. I could reach the pedals easily and did not find my arms uncomfortably bunched up as a result. I achieved this without the additional difficulty, encountered in several other cars, of finding the gear stick too far back to be comfortably reached with the seat pulled right forward.

Bigger and more expensive cars tend to have more sophisticated seat adjustments and many are more comfortable than small models. A 1992 four-door Mazda 626 was easily the best fit for both me and for Vaughan Freeman, my towering colleague.

I was equally taken with a 1992 Vauxhall Calibra until I discovered that, with the seat pulled forward, it was impossible to raise or lower the windscreen sun visor without banging my head or tilting the seat backwards.

Not even a week on a rack would make some vehicles, such as the Range Rover, suitable for someone of my height (5ft 1in). The problem here was having to stretch over oceans of empty space to reach the gear stick.

Things were only marginally better in a 1990 Mercedes E320, in which it is possible to alter the seat height. The wing mirrors were simply not wide enough to give a decent view when the driver's seat was pulled right forward.

Two big cars, though, were exceptionally comfortable — a cavernous Vauxhall Carlton estate and a Granada Scorpio, which has an adjustable steering column.

Alexandra Frean and Vaughan Freeman went car shopping at The Trade Centre, 44 Hythe Road, London NW10 (081 969 5511).

'I poured my legs in first, and twisted my torso — finally, I was in'

Vaughan Freeman

'I was unable to reach the clutch easily — even in a small car'

Alexandra Frean

6ft 5in: just getting into one car was a minor miracle for Vaughan Freeman

In a world which caters for Mr 5ft 10in Average, the large and tall are used to paying a premium for clothes. But when spending £15,000 on a car, even those of us who stoop their way through life might expect a vehicle that fits. After all, this is the age of life-style, when cars are not driven but "worn", and are picked off the shelf to match our aspirations and soft furnishings.

My disintegrating Volvo estate is far from fashionable but the sagging leather seats are as comfy as a favourite jacket, my legs aren't cantilevered round the steering wheel and my hair is refreshingly unruffled by the roof.

However, what if I fancied trading it in for something more sporty or chic? Could I find a car to fit? At The Trade Centre, in north-west London, which stocks 1,100 used cars, I did some serious window-shopping.

First I tried a trio of bright-red sporty numbers. Inching into a £6,999 K-reg Nissan 100NX, my head jammed snugly against the sunroof. The tilt steering wheel allowed me enough legroom — but only if my rear passengers were 2ft tall.

Next a Mazda MX-3. I poured the legs in first, twisted my torso, ducked my head with full neck twist and was in, most of my skull in clear air through the open roof. The steering wheel jammed my thighs, and closing the electric sunroof I only just avoided a scalping. Even the bigger-looking Toyota Celica 2.0 GTi was no more comfortable, and the combination of high door sill and low roof-line made exit and entry a minor miracle of callisthenics.

A Granada Scorpio raised hopes only to disappoint as the tops of my legs brushed the steering wheel and my head the sunroof. The Vauxhall equivalent, the Carlton, was no better. A battleship-size J-reg Renault 25, with electric motors driving the seats up, down and everywhere, was cramped.

An old-shape 1989 Ford Fiesta allowed surprisingly generous headroom, and a three-door Rover 216 GTi was also remarkably comfortable.

A J-reg Vauxhall Nova was easily the most cramped small car of the lot, and a Vauxhall Astra demanded that my left leg splay round the steering wheel to reach the clutch. Best of the small cars was the diminutive Citroën AX.

Vauxhall redeemed itself with the Calibra. A 1992 version of the sports coupe gave me head, leg, arm, everything-room, and its big brother Cavalier saloon was equally accommodating.

For choice, I would have to go for the traditional big man's car — the Range Rover Classic that dwarfed my colleague Alexandra, or almost any Mercedes. The surprise of the day was a Mazda 626 that suited us both, with steering wheel tilt, long seat runners and a moveable seat squab that gave me a clear 2in of headroom.

THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON

A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton: width reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct.
A406 North Circular Road, East Finchley: one lane between A1 junction and A1000 Finchley High Rd.
A219 Putney Bridge: reduced to one lane each way for repairs.
A214 Trinity Rd, Wandsworth: roadworks at junction of Burntwood Lane, rush hour delays especially northbound in the morning.

SOUTH EAST

M25 Surrey J7-8 (M23/Reigate): contraflow causes regular delays and affects traffic joining from M23 northbound.
M25 Surrey J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): major widening work with contraflow.
A3 Guildford, Surrey: down to one lane each way between Burpham and Denis's slip road — major roadworks will cause severe delays daily.
A4 Berkeley Avenue, Reading, Berkshire: roadworks between Coley Ave and St Saviours Rd — temporary lights and some overnight restrictions until March.
A27 Chichester Bypass, Sussex: contraflow between Westhampnett and Whyke roundabouts.
A3020 Cowes, Isle of Wight: *temporary* lights on the Newport Rd at junction with Three Gates Rd for roundabout construction.

SOUTH WEST

M4 Avon J20-21 (Almondsbury/Aust): lane restrictions and contraflows affecting both carriageways *until May 1996*.
M5 Gloucestershire J11-12 (Cheltenham/Gloucester): contraflow in place.
M5 Somerset J26-27 (Wellington/Tiverton): contraflow in place until end of February.
A419 Swindon: contraflow between Turnpike roundabout and A361 junction, with the slip road onto B4141 Hyde Rd closed.
A3074 Cornwall: numerous sets of temporary lights between St Ives and Carbis Bay. St Ives-bound traffic should use the Coach Rd signposted at Lelant.
A3029 Bristol: Merchants Road in Cumberland Basin System closed at Junction Lock Bridge. Diversions via Plimsoll Bridge.

MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 West Midlands J4a-6 (near Birmingham): major work with contraflow.
M5 West Midlands J3-4 (Southwest of Birmingham): lane closures for barrier and lighting work, with additional restrictions, sometimes overnight.
A38 *Fernhill* Heath, Hereford/Worcester: bridge work north of Worcester. Temporary lights, very narrow width with through traffic advised to follow diversions until June.
A52 Nottingham Ring Road: Work between Dunkirk and Nottingham Knight with two lanes each way on Clifton Boulevard and restrictions on Queens Drive Flyover until April.
A45 Stonebridge, West Midlands: flyover construction at the A452 junction and widening between M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island (40mph limit and lane closures) until June.
A146 Oulton Broad, Suffolk: lane restrictions on Beccles Rd with lane restrictions eastbound and diversion westbound.

NORTH

M6 Cheshire J20-21A (Lymm/Croft): major works near Thelwall Viaduct.
M18 South Yorkshire J3-4 (Doncaster Area): major works start February 6 until April.
M62 Humberside J34-35 (Whitley Bridge/Langham): contraflow with two lanes each way and eastbound entry slip road at J34 closed until end of May.
A1 Boroughbridge Bypass, North Yorkshire: closed overnight today for bridge work (11pm-8am Sunday). Diversions. Northbound diversion through Boroughbridge, southbound via Stump Cross.
A1M South Yorkshire J36-J37 (Warmsworth/Marr): continuing work on bridge. Closed this weekend from 8pm today to 4am Monday).
A655 near Castleford, West Yorkshire: temporary lights in Whitwood. One lane either way *under* M62 bridge until March.

WALES

M4 Gwent J23-22 (Magor/Newhouse): lane restrictions and contraflow between Magor and Rogiet for construction of second Severn crossing.
A472 Pontypool, Gwent: demolition works on Pontymoile Gyratory. Lane restrictions and temporary lights affecting Rockhill Rd especially.
A5 Maerdy, Clwyd: improvements continue at the Glyn bends. restrictions including temporary lights and short-term closures at Glyn bends.
A465 West Glamorgan, between Llandarcy and Aberdulais: contraflow on Saltings viaduct for resurfacing until June.
A4223 Pontypridd: one way system operating on Gelliwastad Rd because of widening work.

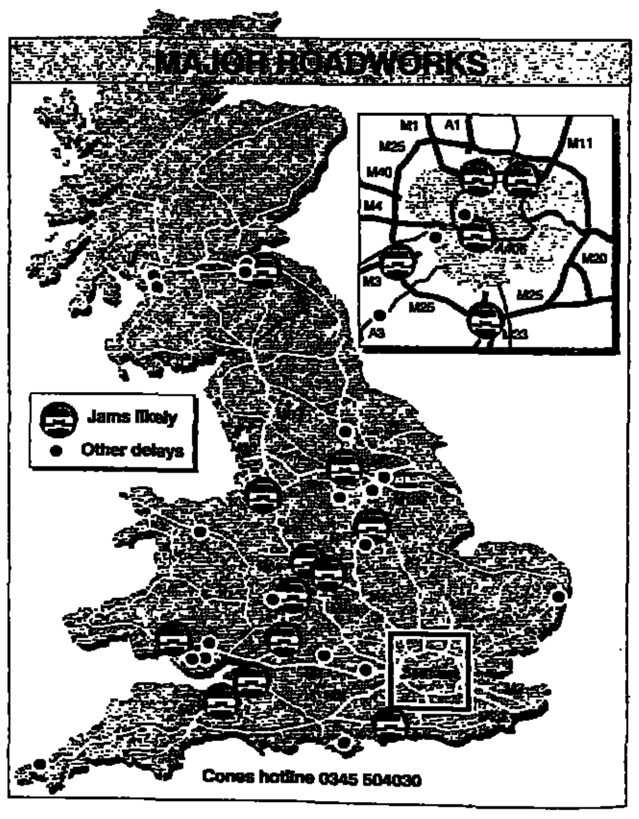
SCOTLAND

M8 Lothian J1 (Newbridge): restrictions between J1 and Edinburgh City Bypass. Width restrictions on High St between *North and South bridges. Works* at Kings Rd roundabout in Portobello area, with restrictions on all approaches until February.
A739 Clyde Tunnel Expressway, Strathclyde: closed northbound from 9pm today until 2pm tomorrow. Whiteinch slip road also closed.

NORTHERN IRELAND

A26 Co Londonderry: temporary lights Greenhill Rd junction with Ballymoney Bypass.
A37 Limavady, Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Broad Rd for resurfacing until April.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



NEWS IN BRIEF

Recall for Vauxhalls

Vauxhall has recalled more than 18,000 of its popular Frontera Sport and Estate models made between August 1991 and February 1994, because of cases of bonnets lifting while the cars were moving. It comes after *Car 95* revealed that 588,000 *cars were recalled* last year. Vauxhall emphasised that no accidents or injuries had resulted and dealers would give vehicles a free check.

Le Shuttle warning

Owners of 4x4 vehicles over 1.85m high, such as the Land Rover Discovery, have been warned by Eurotunnel, operators of the Channel Tunnel, that they will be turned away because they will not fit into Le Shuttle's coaches. As *Car 95* highlighted last week, off-roaders could be too tall but single deck coaches that will take 4x4s, coaches and caravans will be available by the spring.

Italian job for Porsche

Porsche Cars Great Britain announced this week that it will sell Lamborghinis from Italy in the United Kingdom. Sales of the £160,000 Lamborghini Diablo are estimated at fewer than two dozen at the moment but Porsche's dealer strength and the introduction of a cheaper sports car priced at about £90,000 and a £60,000 off-roader could see sales at more than 100 annually.

Workshop's fitness drive

The six-fold rise in the number of hip fractures since the 1960s has been blamed largely on greater car ownership and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle. Specialists at a National Osteoporosis Society workshop recommended 30 minutes daily exercise to strengthen bones and remedy the damage done by over-reliance on the car.

هكذا من الاهالي

The 12hp racer that carried the king

In the first of his series on British cars that made history, **Lord Montagu** looks at the 1899 Daimler

To choose the first outstanding British car is not difficult: it has to be the 12 horse-power Daimler of 1899.

Gottlieb Daimler started building cars in Germany in 1886 and, a decade later, a group of speculative businessmen took out a franchise on his engine to found the British Daimler company. Cars made by the company in Germany took the name Mercedes from 1901. In Britain, the Daimler badge has survived takeovers first by BSA, then Jaguar and *then by Ford.*

Although the Daimler company *started in 1896 making* cars to the original design, it was the spring *of 1899* before John Scott-Montagu, my father and *MP* for the New Forest, acquired one as a dedicated enthusiast of the new-fangled motor car.

It was not only the first British-designed and built four-cylinder car but also the first British car to compete in a continental *motor* race driven by an En*glishman, my* father.

His Daimler and his influence per*suaded a king and* a prime minister that the motor car was a *machine* for the future and not a passing novelty.

In August 1899, my father lunched with the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, at Highcliffe Castle, near Christchurch, taking him and two ladies for a ride in the New Forest in his Daimler. Duly impressed, the Prince asked what sort of car might suit him and my father was instructed to send his Daimler to Marlborough House to be inspected by the Prince's staff — a somewhat irrelevant task as, in all probability, his staff knew little or nothing about motor cars.

Nevertheless, the order for *the first royal* Daimler soon followed, starting a long tradi*tion of ownership* in the Royal Family that persists to this day.

However, the story of the *Daimler extended beyond the* Prince of Wales and into what was to become the "*car park of* democracy" when my father won a formidable victory over petty officialdom by asserting *his* right as an *MP* to "free ingress and egress" to the House of Commons. He took his motor car, and by so doing persuaded A.J. Balfour, then the Conservative Party leader, to become a motorist. Balfour became Britain's first motoring prime minister when he succeeded Lord Salisbury in July, 1902.

Daimler of Coventry started by building twin-cylinder machines closely patterned on the French Panhard & Levassor. *After two years of production*, the company had the confi*dence to create a design of its* own. Similar to earlier cars from the *Midlands* factory, it had the latest technology in terms of wheel steering (earlier Daimlers were controlled by a quavering tiller which made them liable to overturn in an emergency) and pneumatic tyres, even though its back wheels were larger than the front in true horse-carriage fashion.

By the standards *of the day, it was a* supercar. Its 3,054cc *engine* (ef*fectively two twin-cylinder units in* tandem) was the biggest and most powerful *then built in* Britain. Its top speed of 35-40mph was three times the legal limit of 12mph — making the Daimler the McLaren F1 of its day.

> 'It started a long tradition of royal ownership'

It was also reliable at a time when that virtue was at a premium. During the summer of 1899, John Scott-Montagu confidently drove his cars on both sides of the Channel, making him one of the first British tourists to venture into France by motor car, and charting a course for millions to follow over the next 100 years.

He also regularly commuted the 91 miles between Beaulieu and London when Parliament was in session, covering the distance on unmetalled roads in four hours and 20 minutes at an *average* of 21mph, a *speed* which seemed commendable as late *as the early 1960s* before the M3 opened.

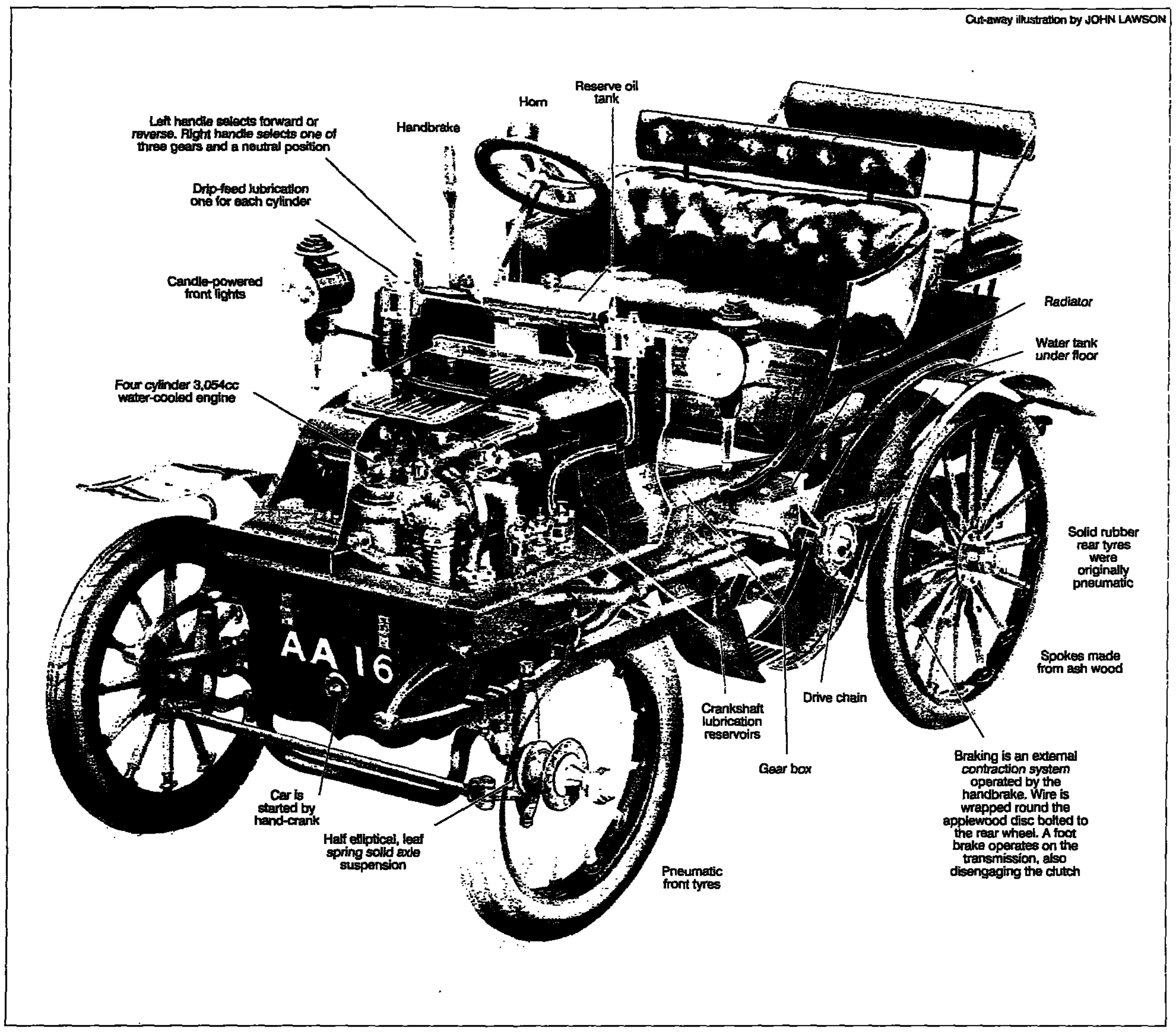
That combination of speed and reliability inspired him to enter for the tourists' class in the Paris to Ostend race in September of that year. Run *over 210 miles of public roads*, this was the first continental race in which "British automobilists" took part and the fact *that Montagu's Daimler* was a "British-made carriage ... *driven by an Englishman*" prompted *The Autocar* — the magazine that is a century old this year — to argue the importance of racing for the *British motor industry.*

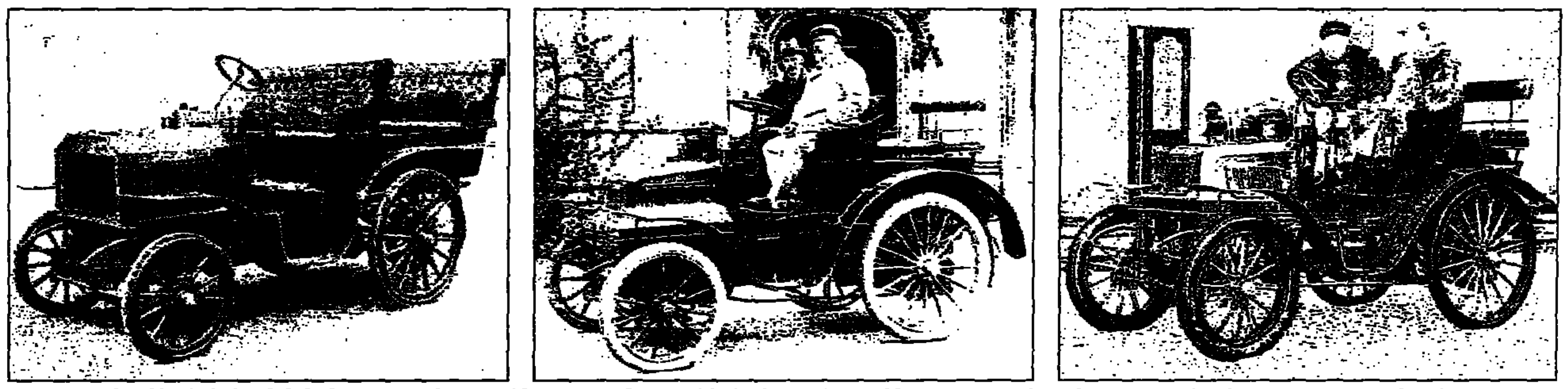
Not only, said the magazine, would the demonstration that cars were capable of running *long distances at high speed* without breakdown inspire *confidence in prospective cus*tomers, but "racing has been the means by which excellence has been attained in yacht building and bicycle making and, in the case of the British Daimler Company, racing *appears* to us to be of the utmost importance".

It went on: "As the *excite*ment and fascination of this *new sport becomes known*, there must be demand for fast carriages and orders will go to the firm which has proved by racing records its capability of turning out *speedy* and reliable machines."

Montagu started the race more than two hours late *because a water pipe damaged* by careless handling on the *cross-Channel ferry started to* leak and had to be repaired. It must have been galling to find that, in terms of actual running time, his average speed of *23.9mph was exactly the same* as that of the class-winning Peugeot. When the 130 minutes lost in patching the leaky *pipe with a bicycle inner tube* was added, the average fell to *18.7mph, so he managed* only third place.

Never mind. That first venture into international racing inspired Bentley, Jaguar and *Aston Martin victories* at Le Mans, as well as the many Cosworth-powered cars that have dominated Grand Prix *racing since. That first four*-cylinder Daimler put the Brit*ish motor industry on the* world stage.


Cut-away illustration by JOHN LAWSON
Left handle selects forward or reverse. Right handle selects one of three gears and a neutral position
Handbrake
Horn
Reserve oil tank
Drip-feed lubrication one for each cylinder
Candle-powered front lights
Radiator
Water tank under floor
Four cylinder 3,054cc water-cooled engine
Solid rubber rear tyres were originally pneumatic
Spokes made from ash wood
AA 16
Crankshaft lubrication reservoirs
Drive chain
Gear box
Braking is an external contraction system operated by the handbrake. Wire is wrapped round the applewood disc bolted to the rear wheel. A foot brake operates on the transmission, also disengaging the clutch
Car is started by hand-crank
Half elliptical, leaf spring solid axle suspension
Pneumatic front tyres


The 1899 Daimler, left, before restoration; Lord Montagu's father with the future Edward VII, centre; and Lord Montagu with the present Prince of Wales

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Vaughan Freeman reports on a 1960s racing legend remoulded for the high-speed 1990s

Ford wheels out cut-price supermodel

The Ford GT40 revolutionised the motor racing world, won the Le Mans 24 hours race four times in a row in the 1960s, and stamped the American car giant's badge firmly on an event previously dominated by European manufacturers such as Ferrari.

Now Ford is back, with the *sensational-looking* Ford GT90 that visually owes more to *the Stealth Bomber* than any other car, and is set to do for the Ford image *and* reputation in the 1990s what its spiritual forebear did 30 years ago.

Despite a top speed of *235mph* and Ford's clear ambitions to develop a win*ning race version*, the GT90 is, first and foremost, a road car capable *of outrunning its* European rivals.

Features include infra-red blind-spot detectors that tell the driver when another vehicle is alongside but unseen, and ceramic materials developed for the space shuttle to withstand 1000C and used to *shield* the exhaust pipes. There's comfort for the two occupants thanks to leather and suede upholstery, full air conditioning, a CD player using 10 speakers and a mobile phone.

British designers have done their bit: much that is underneath the body comes from the UK-developed Jaguar XJ220 (Jaguar is Ford-owned), including many of the *suspension* components. The cars share the same five-speed gearbox.

Ford says the car's hard-edged lines are a hint of what *mainstream models* will look like as it moves away from the soft, rounded "organic" looks of the early 1990s. It is also a test-bed for developing technologies that will be incorporated in future Ford vehicles, such as the blind-spot detector, which is to be *used in the* next generation of Ford trucks.

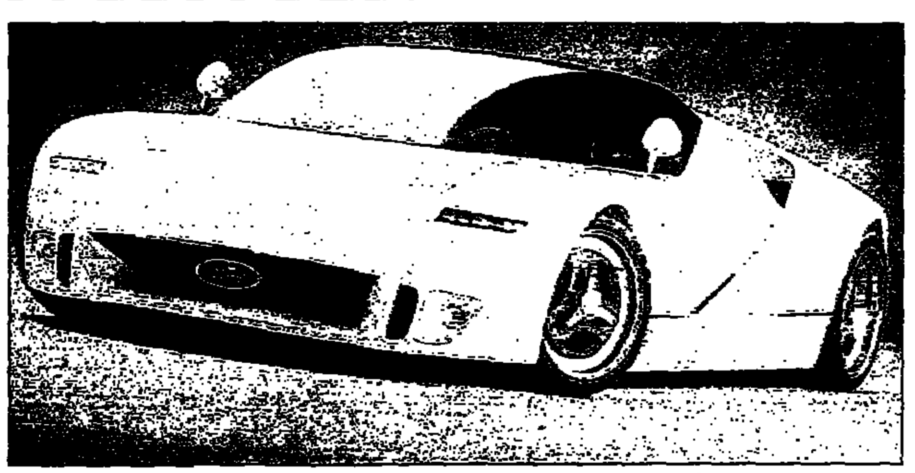
The GT40 (so-called because it was a grand tourer *with a 40in height from road* to roof top) was an astonishing advance. *Its sleek lines* initially clothed a 4.2 litre V8 engine able to run at more than 150mph for 24 hours non-stop.

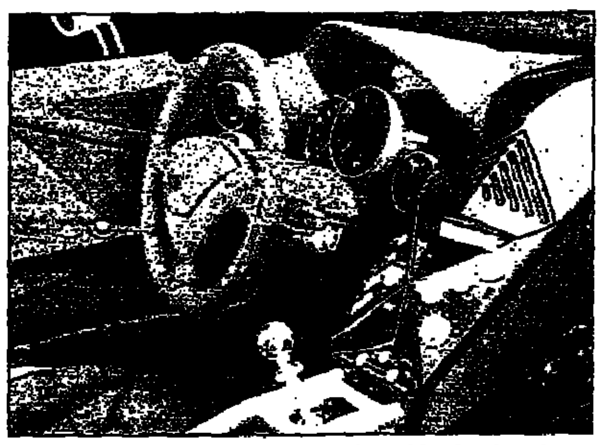
The GT90 packs a punch that makes the GT40 look like a Bath chair. *Its six-litre* V12 engine uses four turbochargers, with a *potential* output of 900bhp, enough to take the car to 235mph and from 0-60mph in 3.1 seconds.

Jacques Nasser, the company's *product development* vice-president, said: "The GT40 was the Ford that beat Ferrari. By placing 1,2,3 at Le Mans in *1966*, and winning again in '67, '68 and '69, this is the Ford that dominated endurance racing in the last half of the '60s.

"As a salute to this historic race car, we decided to build a supercar. This is not, though, a *typical one-off, hand-built* concept car. The GT90 is a *sophisticated, pure-bred Ford* that is capable of outperforming the Ferrari F40, Bugatti EB110, Lamborghini Diablo, and could give the McLaren F1 a run for its money at a fraction of the price."

The price? Ford says it could build 500 GT90s a year in America, selling for £75,000 to £100,000. Its rivals are *far more expensive*: Bugatti EB110 (212mph and £290,000), McLaren F1 (231mph and £634,500), Lamborghini Diablo (202mph and £160,000) or Jaguar XJ220 (217mph and £400,000).


Super power from a superpower: Ford's new road racer, the 900bhp, 235mph GT90


Speed with style: the GT90's suede and leather interior

TOP 12 CARS

Continued from page 1

Seven (only 8ft 10in long and initially with an engine of 696cc developing 10bhp) was nevertheless a "proper car", with a *four-cylinder* engine, three-speed gearbox, four-*wheel brakes, shaft drive* and a four-seater body. It drove off *the market* the crude cyclecars with two-cylinder engines and belt or chain drive, and was later made in every conceivable form, from racing car to delivery van.

The German-licensed version was made by Dixi which was acquired by BMW in 1928, thus founding BMW as a car-maker. Sixty-six years later, they took over Austin's descendants in Britain. A Japanese version of the Seven led to the rise of the vast Nissan empire. The Morris Minor, a car in the same mould as the Seven and launched as a response to it, appeared in 1928.

British sports cars of the *early 1920s were mostly large* and expensive, typified by the *Vauxhall 30/98* and Bentley 3-litre. The Vauxhall was a fine fast tourer which combined power and docility. Although the sports car today is usually thought of as a two-seater, these came later. Most 30/98s, Bentleys and Sunbeams had four-seater touring bodies. *The Bentley won Britain's first* victory in the 24-hour race at *Le Mans in 1924, the first of* five Bentley wins on the circuit. The 3-litre Sunbeam was a pioneer of the twin-overhead camshaft layout which came to be so widely used in

France had made small sports cars throughout the *1920s, but in* Britain the type was pioneered by the MG *Midget M-type, which was* based on Morris Minor components. *MG's managing di*rector, Cecil Kimber, reckoned *that if a car was 10* per cent better than normal, it would cost 50 per cent more and *still* sell. In fact, at £175, the Midget cost 40 *per cent more than the* Minor and sold like hot cakes.

It gave rise to a series of Midgets up to 1979, of which probably the best-known was the TC of 1945-49. This sparked off sports car enthusi*asm in America, which helped* Britain's exports greatly, and *led to such cars as the Chevro*let Corvette and Ford Thunderbird.

> 'Britain's best years were from 1945 to the middle 1950s'

Britain's best years as a caterer to world demand were from the end of World War Two to the middle 1950s, before European makers got into their stride. Among the *more prominent export suc*cesses were the Morris Minor *and Jaguar XK120. The Alec* Issigonis-designed Minor set *new standards of handling* for a small family car, while the twin-overhead camshaft XK120 offered exceptionally high performance, with a top speed of 125mph, at a reason-

Issigonis's next design, the Mini, was one of Britain's most *important contributions* to world design. Front-wheel *drive had been seen before*, but Issigonis's brainwave was to *install* the engine transversely and above the transmission. This *made for a very* compact drive system and meant *four passengers could* be carried in a car only 10ft *long. Ideal for shopping*, rallying or circuit racing, the Mini was a truly classless car. Several European cars were inspired by its layout, including the Fiat 127, Volkswagen Golf and the second-generation Renault 5.

Among ground-breaking British cars of the 1970s was the Range Rover, which brought luxury and style to the four-wheel-drive field, and triggered a worldwide trend.

Despite the recession, the 1990s saw the emergence of the supercar: extravagantly expensive coupés which made even Ferraris and *Lamborghinis look quite rea*sonable. Among them are the *Bugatti EB110 and two British* contenders, the Jaguar XJ220 and the McLaren F1. At £634,500, the McLaren is by far the most expensive, and with a top speed of 231mph, one of the fastest cars in the world. The 627bhp BMW V12 engine may be foreign, but the *carbon-fibre frame, suspen*sion and innovative central *drive position are all* the work of Britain's Gordon Murray, derived from experience in Formula One.

As the British motor industry approaches its second century, we can look back with pride and forward with

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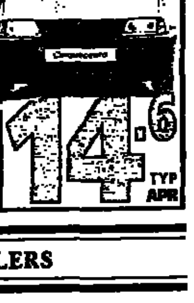

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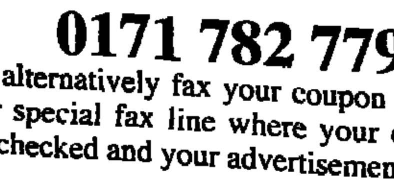

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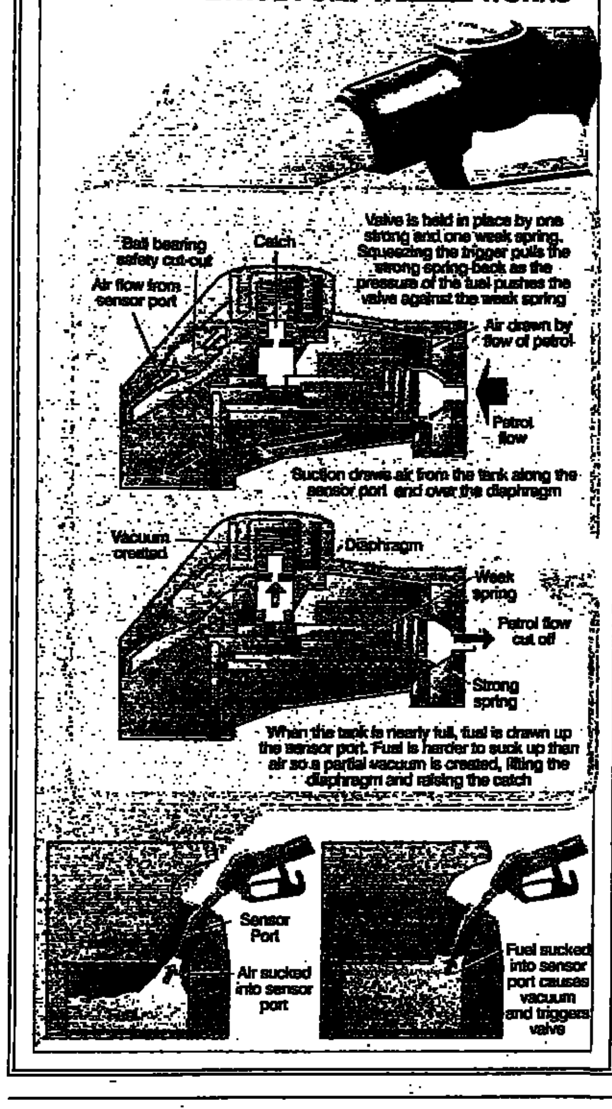
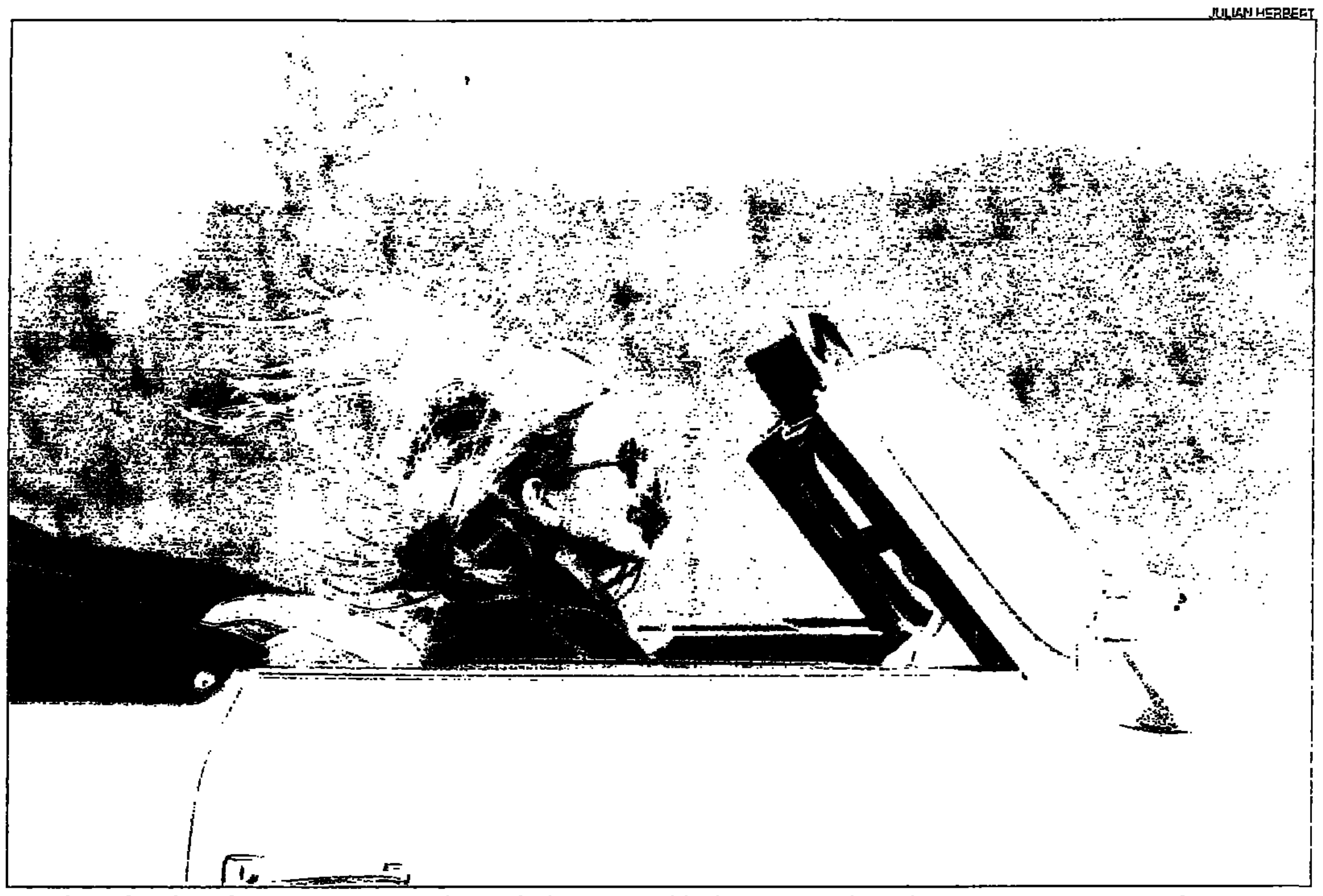
HOW THE PETROL PUMP NOZZLE WORKS


Valve is held in place by one strong and one week spring. Squeezing the trigger pulls the strong spring back as the pressure of the fuel pushes the valve against the week spring
Ball bearing safety cut-out
Catch
Air flow from sensor port
Air drawn by flow of petrol
Petrol flow
Suction draws air from the tank along the sensor port and over the diaphragm
Vacuum created
Diaphragm
Week spring
Petrol flow cut off
Strong spring
When the tank is nearly full, fuel is drawn up the sensor port. Fuel is harder to suck up than air so a partial vacuum is created, lifting the diaphragm and raising the catch
Sensor Port
Air sucked into sensor port
Fuel sucked into sensor port causes vacuum and triggers valve

They leave men standing when they edge into the fast lane. **Morag Preston** talks to some of the speed queens

Tell-tale secrets of Britain's fast women


JULIAN HERBERT

Faster than the male: a new survey shows that two in three women drive between 60 and 75mph, compared with only two in five men

Denied Scalextrix and pedal cars, until recently there were few ways a young girl could expend her excess energy. She bottled it up until she learned to drive, then passed her test and hit the open road. But boys' toys are a thing of the past, and a new generation of girl racers has moved into the fast lane.

According to a survey by Autoglass, women drive faster than men and are just as likely to choose the outside lane. Ten per cent of women speed up the fast lane, compared to nine per cent of men. Women want to get from A to B as fast as possible, and rarely steer into the slow lane. One in two women travel in the middle lane, compared with one in three men. Only 14 per cent of women stay under 60mph, compared with 38 per cent of men. Two in three women drive between 60mph and 75mph, compared with two in five men, and more women motorists admit to breaking the speed limit.

Doing the weekly shopping and dropping the children at school was never a fair test of speed for women motorists. But outside the disciplines of domestic driving, there lurks a fast cat. Her insurance may be lower, but her car is sportier than ever.

While men have always boasted about the speeds they reach, for some women it is a guilty and rewarding pleasure. A snap survey at *The Times* confirms Autoglass's conclusions, and debunks the myth of macho salesmen burning holes in the tarmac.

Sally Braithwaite, 25, a doctor in Cambridge who drives a racing-green BMW 5 Series, says: "My boyfriend says I drive too fast, but motorways are too tempting. It's easy to put your foot down, and a joy to have such a powerful car. I drive at 80mph or more, especially if I've had a bad day. If I'm frustrated, I squeeze the accelerator that little bit harder. Speed and loud music are good therapy.

"My parents are quite nervous about my driving so I never take them out on big spins. Although I've never crashed, I've been convicted for speeding twice. I drive faster than most men I know, but I think they find fast women drivers attractive. It suggests a certain recklessness. Occasionaly I go over 100mph, which gives me quite a buzz. I hate plodding along, and driving fast is addictive.

"I passed my test first time round but I was on my second instructor. The first was a chauvinist who thought I drove too carelessly, so I moved on to a female instructor. I do most things in a hurry and am manic when I'm on call, but not a health risk."

Rosemarie Fenn, 54, a secretary in Guernsey, who drives her son's grey Porsche, says: "Nobody ever wanted me to drive their kids to school but my own four thought it was great fun. I've never been able to hang around, so they called me 'go faster mummy'. Boys don't expect their mothers to drive fast, but I used to reach 90mph. Because the speed limit in Guernsey is 35mph, I tend to get driven these days.

I've never had a speeding fine, but fell asleep at the wheel one New Year's Eve and wrote off my husband's XJ6. I also took the back door off his BMW, crashed my Mini Estate and wrecked my neighbour's car as I sped down a hill in my Golf. My eldest son claims I've scarred him for life, literally, and I know that my youngest is going to take after me. My husband was a club car racer, so I'm just keeping up with him. He was the first person to teach me to drive. He wanted to take me for a tootle in his Triumph TR2, but when I planted my foot down and headed for the pond, he gave up."

Caroline Gray, 25, a communications adviser in Battersea, south London, who drives a red Renault 5, says: "Friends have taped 'Slow Down' to my dashboard. But with nine points on my licence, I am a reformed speed queen. I used to drive at 88mph in the outside lane with my radio on. I've never enjoyed driving, and just want to get the journey over with. Forget the scenery along the way!

"Now I have to concentrate to keep my speed down, which is very hard going through towns. I've even insured my car for friends, so they can drive me. I'm embarrassed by how fast I drive, but it's inherited from my grandfather. He owned sports cars at a time when there were no speed limits. The last time I was caught going through a red light, I wasn't wearing a seat-belt. I've had a couple of crashes in this country, and rolled a car in the Namibia desert. But the points system works, and it won't happen again."

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91 (J) 230TE Pearl, Auto, RFS .50T £18,995
93 (L) E220 White, Auto 10T £23,500
94 (L) E200 Nutra, Auto 20T £22,995
93 (L) E200 Almandine, Auto ..19T £20,995
93 (L) E200 Pearl Blue, Auto .. 24T £20,995
93 (L) C200 Eleg Rosewood, Auto 4T £23,995
94 (M) C200 Eleg Pearl, Auto . .8T £23,995
94 (M) C280 Eleg Red, Auto .9T £23,500
91 (H) 190E 2.0 Almandine, Auto 30T £13,995
93 (L) 190E 1.8 Almandine, Auto 12T £16,995
90 (L) 190E 1.8 Black, Auto 20T £16,995
93 (L) 190E 1.8 Signal Red, Auto 24T £16,495
93L S280 Midnight Blue, Cream Hide, C/C, Stereo, 8 Hole Alloys ...11T £38,995
90G 500SL Blue Black, Black Hide, Air Con, R/Seat, ASR, C/C 41T £44,995
94M E320C Blue Black, Cream Hide, EFS, Air Con, 8H Alloys, 5 Spd .1T £44,995
92K 300CE 24V Blue Black, Black Hide, Stereo + Mem, AMG Alloys .27T £34,995
91H 230CE Blue Black, Grey Hide, 8 Hole Alloys 27T £23,495
94L E320 Nautic Blue, Grey Hide, Climate, EFS, C/C, 8H Alloys, OTG .2T £36,995
91J 300E 24V Anthracite, Grey Hide, Alloys 29T £24,995
94M E280T Almandine, Grey Cloth, A/Con, R/Seats, 8H Alloys, Stereo .7T £35,995
94L E200T Almandine, Grey Cloth, ESR, EPW, Walnut, Stereo 8T £24,995
93L C220 Sport Silver, Black Cloth, Auto 18T £24,995
94L C220 Classic Auto Imperial, Cream OTG, ESR, 4EW, Stereo ..14T £23,995
92J 190E 1.8 Auto Signal, Grey Cloth, ESR, RHR, Stereo 32T £14,995
92K 190E 1.8 Barolo Red, Cream Cloth, ESR, Stereo 12T £15,995
90H 190E 2.0 Black, Grey Cloth, ESR, EW 37T £12,995

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B & K THOMAS
SUNDAY ENQUIRY LINE 0115 982 2146
93L 300SL Beryl Blue, Cr Hide, 'A', A/Bag, HF/Seat, R/Seat, 8H, R/St 9T £49,995
94L SL320 24V M/Blue, Cream Hide, 5 Sp 'A', A/Bags, C/C, R/Seat, 8H, R/St 2T £55,995
94L S280 24V Rosewood, Cream, 'A', A/Bag, ESR, C/C, HLWW, Alloys, R/St 18T £35,995
92J 300CE Coupe Pearl Blue, Cr Hide, 'A', Spline, 8H, Wal, RHR, HLWW, CD 26T £28,995
93L E320 24V Coupe Malachite, Cr Hide, 5 Sp 'A', S/Line, 8H, A/B, Orth/Seat, AMG .13T £38,995
93L 280TE 24V Est B/Silver, Grey, 'A', A/Con, A/Bag, Wal, 8H, RF/Seat, R/ST 21T £29,995
94M E300D Est B/Black, Cr Hide, 'A', A/Bags, RF/Seat, Wal, 8H, HLWW, C/C, CD 9T £32,995
91J 230TE Est Malachite, Grey, 'A', Wal, Alloys, RF/Seat, ESR, FAR, R/St 42T £18,995
94M E280 24V B/Black, Grey Hide, 'A', Wal, A/Bags, OTG, IVM, E/L, Alm, R/St 3T £29,995
94L E220 16V Auto, Cream, 'A', A/Bag, 8 Holes, ESR, ABS, M/Play CD 15T £23,995
94M C280 Ele Almandine, Cream, 'A', A/Bag, Cruise, RHR, Alm, ESR, R/St, CD 3T £24,995
94L C220 Sport Blue Black, Hide, 'A', A/Bag, Alloys, ESR, FAR, EWx4, R/St 1T £27,995
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92J 300SL Midnight Blue, Cream Hide, Auto, 8AW, Stereo 26T £41,995
90H 500SL Almandine, Cream Hide, Air Con, Rear Child Seat, E. Seats with Memory, CD Unit 27T £47,995
94M E320T Azurite Blue, Mushroom Hide, C.C. 5Spd Auto, ASC, EFS, 7 Seats, 8 Hole Alloys, C.C, OTG, WV, R/Cass Alarm 2T £46,995
94M E300D Est. Imperial Red, Cream Cloth, Auto, Air Con, Fr.F.St, 8AW, 2 Air Bags, Stereo Alarm 14T £32,995
92K 300TE Malachite, Cream Cloth, Air Con, Rear Facing Seat, Head Lamp Wash Wipe 36T £28,995
94L E220 Coupe Dark Blue, Grey Cloth, Auto, 8 Hole A.Wheels, Elec S/Roof, Fr Head Rests, Anti Theft Alarm, Stereo 2T £29,995
94L E220 Arctic White, Blue Cloth, Auto, 8 Hole A. Wheels, Rear Head rests, Front Arm Rest, Walnut Veneer, Stereo ...8T £24,995
94L E220 Nautic Blue, Cream Cloth, Auto, Alloy Wheels, Walnut Veneer, Outside Temp Gauge, Front Armrest, Rear Headrests, Radio Cassette, Alarm 11T £24,995
93L E200 White, Grey Cloth, Auto, Elec Sunroof, Elec Windows, F.Arm Rest, Stereo 21T £21,995
92K 260E Nautic Blue, Cream Hide, Auto, 8 Hole Alloys, Walnut Veneer, R/Headrests, F/Armrests, Headlamp Wash Wipe, Radio Cassette 29T £23,995
92J 200E Signal Red, Black Sport Cloth, Auto, Elec. Sunroof, Front Armrest, Radio Cassette 35T £16,995
94L C180 Elegance Dark Blue, Grey Cloth, Auto, Elec S/Roof, Elec Windows, Anti Theft Alarm, Stereo 2T £21,495
93L C180 Elegance Choice of 2 cars, Silver, Rosewood, Auto, Dual Mirr, Remote Alarm, R/Cass 9T £20,495
94L C220 Classic White, Blue Cloth, 5Spd Manual, Elec S/Roof/Windows, F/R Armrests, Stereo, Alarm 7T £21,495
93K 190E 2.6 Arctic White, Grey Cloth, Auto, ESR, AMG Alloy Wheels, Rear Spoiler, Stereo 13T £17,995
89G 230CE Pearl Grey, Black Cloth, Auto, Alloy Wheels, Front Arm Rest, Stereo Alarm 34T £16,995
89G 420SEC Smoke Silver, Cream Hide, Air Con, Rear Head Rests, Stereo Radio/CD, Sonic Alarm 54T £22,995
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Puttocks
300SL 24V (K) 92 White/Cream Hide, 5 Spd Auto, A/Con, Cruise, R/Seat ..22T £49,950
420SL (F) 89 Nautic Blue/Grey Hide, Air Con, R/Seat, Htd Seats 35T £25,950
500SEC (H) 90 Silver/Blue Hide, A/Con, Elec. Sts, Mem Dr. Seat, Htd. Sts 44T £29,950
S320 (L) 94 Almandine/Cream Hide, Climate, Closing Aids, 8 Holes 8T £46,950
300SE (J) 91 Silver/Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, R.Hd Rests 34T £22,950
E320 Coupe (L) 94 Nautic/Cream Hide, Air Con, E/Seat, 8 Hole Alloys 12T £40,950
E320 Coupe (L) 93 Midnight Blue/Blue Hide, Climate, Sportline 2T £41,950
E320TE (L) 94 Nautic/Grey Hide, Air Con, R/Seat, 8 Hole Alloys 12T £40,950
300E 24V (J) 91 Silver/Sports Cloth, Air Con, Sportline, Cruise 55T £22,950
300E (J) 92 Pearl Grey/Black Cloth, Air Con, Sportline, CC, OATG 39T £27,950
280E (K) 92 White/Grey Cloth, Auto, Cruise, Walnut, H/Lamp W/Wipe 19T £23,950
260E (J) 92 Impala/Cream Cloth, Auto, Walnut, 8 Hole Alloys 23T £20,950
230E (K) 92 Smoke/Cream, Auto, Alloys, RHR, FAR, Walnut 25T £18,950
300TD (K) 93 Pearl Blue/Blue Cloth, Auto, E/S/Roof, Walnut 16T £26,950
230TE (K) 92 Almandine/Grey Hide, Auto, Air Con, Htd/Seats, Alloys 26T £25,950
230TE (J) 92 Blue Black/Grey Sports Cloth, Auto, 8 Hole Alloys, FCA 26T £22,950
200TE (J) 92 Pearl Blue/Grey Cloth, Auto R/Seat, Electric Sunroof 21T £20,950
C250D Esprit (M) 94 Blue Black/Black Cloth, E/Sunroof, F/Armrest 3T £22,950
C220 Sport (M) 94 Silver/Black Cloth, Alloys, R/Headrests, Sun Roof 10T £24,950
C180 Elegance (L) 94 Smoke Silver/Grey Cloth, Auto, Electric Sunroof 9T £20,950
C180 Elegance (L) 94 Blue Black/Burgundy Cloth, Auto, Infra Red Locking ..12T £19,950
190E 2.6 16V (H) 91 Almandine/Black Hide, Auto, ASD, H/Seats 25T £20,950
190E 2.0 (K) 92 Midnight Blue/Cream Cloth, Auto, E/Sunroof, E/Windows ..13T £17,950
190E 1.8LE (K) 93 Silver/Black Cloth, Auto, Airbag, 8 hole alloys 27T £16,950
300GES (L) 93 Silver/Grey Cloth, Air Con, Heated Seats, E/Sunroof, Alls ..12T £23,950
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94M S280 Blue Black/Mushroom Leather, Climate, E/S, S/R £40,995
94L 320SL Blue Black/Grey Leather, 8 Holes, R/S £58,995
84B 280SL Brilliant Silver/Sports Cloth, FSH £14,995
93L C180 Elegance Auto White/Grey Cloth £21,495
91H 230TE Auto Nautic Blue/Grey Cloth, Alloys, R/S £16,995
91H 300SE Blue Black/Grey Cloth, A/C, C/C £22,995
91J 190E 2.6 Auto Anthracite/Grey Leather, A/C £17,995
92J 300E Pearl Grey, Blue Leather, Sportsline, 8 Holes £24,995

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94L C180 Eleg Man Almandine...5T £21,495
94L C180 Eleg Auto Rosewood.10T £21,995
93L C250D Elegance Silver 17T £23,995
91J 190E Blue Black, 8 Holes ...22T £14,995
93K 190E 1.8 A Midnight 30T £14,995
93L 190E 1.8 A Signal 12T £16,995
92K 200E Man Signal red 27T £16,995
92K 280E Auto Midnight 31T £19,795
93K 280E Auto Beryl, Metallic ..18T £20,995
93K 220E Polar White 53T £19,995
91J 260E Pearl Grey Metallic ...26T £18,495
93L E280 Pearl Blue 21T £26,995
91J 300E Nautic 37T £21,995
93K 300E Pearl Blue Metallic ...37T £24,995
94L 200TE Auto White 9T £24,995
92J 200TE A Smoke Silver 43T £18,995
92K 200TE Auto White 20T £21,995
92K 280TE Auto Barolo 49T £18,995
93L E280T Malachite, Hi Spec ..19T £34,995
93K 300SL Signal 16T £49,995
93K 300SL 24V Beryl 10T £52,995
89F 280GE Man Anthracite 31T £11,995
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C180 Classic. 1993. L, Polar White/Blue *Cloth. Electric Sunroof. Radio/Cass.* One Owner. 5,000 miles £17,950

C180 ESPRIT. 1994. M. Black/Black Cloth. Electric Sunroof. Radio/Cassette. R/H/Rests. I/R Locking. 2500 miles £18,950

C180 ELEGANCE. 1994. L. Brilliant Silver/Grey Cloth. Usual Elegance Refinements, Radio/Cassette. One Owner, 4800 miles £19,950

C200 SPORT. 1994. M. Blue Black/ Black Sport Cloth. Auto. F/A/Rest. Alarm. CD. One Owner. 2700 miles £23,950

C220 ELEGANCE. 1994. M. Blue Black/Grey Cloth. Automatic. Air Conditioning. Alarm. Radio/Cass. 6500 miles £26,950

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C280 ELEGANCE. 1994. M. Tourmaline Green/Mushroom Cloth. Automatic. Alarm. Radio/Cassette. One Owner. 7000 miles £27,950

AMG C280 SPORT. 1994. L. Polar White/Black Sport Cloth. Full AMG Body Styling. Inc 17" Alloys. Automatic. I/R Locking. Air Conditioning. F/A/Rest. Radio/Cassette. One Owner. 19,800 miles £32,950

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COUPES
93L E320 Cab Red......8T £43,995
93K 320CE Cab Blue......26T £43,995
SALOONS
93L E320 Blue Black......9T £34,995
93L E300D Silver......36T £25,995
94M C220 Onyx......9T £23,995
94M C220 Blue......8T £23,495
94M C220D Eleg Green......3T £22,995
91H 190E 2.5 16V Silver......61T £18,995
89F 190E 2.5 16V Smoke......48T £14,995
ESTATES
94 E300 Imperial......12T £29,995
94L E200 B/Black......10T £23,995
94L E200 Red......10T £22,995
93K 320TE Silver......25T £32,995
92J 300TE 24V Silver......55T £24,995
91H 300GES Almandine......49T £19,995
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Lancaster Mercedes-Benz

94L 190LE Auto Azzuro blue, 8aw, rhr, far 9T £18,995
94M C180 Auto Elegance Black, cc, alarm 8T £21,995
94M C280 Auto Elegance Imp., hide, clc, els, 8aw, s/s .1T P.O.A.
93L C220 Auto Sport Silver, hide, rhr, gsr, a/c, alls ...19T £27,495
94M C220 Auto Elegance B/black, 17" AMG alls, alm ...4T £28,995
94L C220 Auto Sport Silver, hide, alloys, rhr 6T £28,995
92K 230TE Auto Silver, e/roof, far, ew, ww 5T £24,995
94L E200 Auto Midnight blue, e/roof, alarm, 8aw 10T £22,995
94L E220 Auto White, esr, ew, far, rhr, 8aw alarm 9T £23,995
94M E220 Coupe Almandine, hide, 8aw, ww, far, rhr ...1T £35,995
94M E220 Coupe Brilliant, hide, sportline, 8aw, ww, eds 1T £35,495
94L E220T Auto White, rfs, esr, ew, alarm 1T £27,495
94L 220E Auto Black, e/roof, far, rhr, ew 12T £21,395
94M E300T Diesel Auto Silver, rfs, ww, alarm, cd 4T £30,995
94M E320 Auto Silver, esr, ww, hlww, alloys 1T £34,995
92J 300CE 24V Auto Almandine, hide, 8aw, eds, far, rhr 52T £28,495
93L 320CE B/black, hide, 5 sp auto, s/line, a/c, 8aw ...19T £38,995
93L E320 Coupe Pearl blue, hide, a/c, s/line, 8aw, eds, cc 11T £39,995
93L E320T Rosewood, 8aw, hide, a/c, eds, rfs 19T £39,995
94M E220 Cabriolet Auto Tourmaline, hide, s/line, 8aw 5T £41,995
94L E220 Cabriolet Auto Almandine/hide, a/c, 8aw ...1T £41,995
92L E220 Cabriolet Auto Nautic, hide, alloys 11T £37,995
92J 300SL 24V Pearl blue, hide, a/c, rcs, 8aw, a/bag ..20T £48,995
92K 500SL Blue black, hide, a/c, 8aw rcs, ots, eds 8T £55,995
93L SL280 Imperial/hide, eds, alloys, r/cassette 13T £48,995
91J 500SL Pearl grey, hide, a/c, rcs, 8aw, hfs, esr 27T £52,995
92J 500SL Signal, hide, air con, rcs, hfs, 8aw 36T £54,995
94L SL500 Imperial/hide, climate, cc, 8aw, rcs 21T £66,995
94L SL500 Brilliant, hide, clc, 8aw, rcs, cc 8T £68,995
94L SL600 Blue black, hide, clc, 8aw, rcs, cc, cd 12T £80,995
92L 500SEC Bornite, hide, 8aw, clc, els, cc 23T £58,995
93K 600SL B/black, hide, 8aw, clc, acs, asr, twin airbags 9T P.O.A.
93K 600SEL Grey met, hide, good specification 23T £82,995
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93K 190E leatherette, ww, esr, rhr, dst 20T £16,995
92J 190E 2.0 Auto met, abs, esr, dst 15T £17,995
94M C180 Elegance Auto rhr, ew, dst 5T £22,495
93L C220 Sport Auto met, rst, split seat, rhr 21T £23,995
93K 220E Auto 4 x 8H, dst 15T £22,995
94L E200 5 speed, hsw, esr, dst 12T £19,995
93L E220 Auto met, a/c, far, s/l, dst 12T £26,495
94M E220 Auto ww, rhr, 8h alloys, far, dst 6T £26,995
94L E220C Auto met, hide, ww, dst 4T £31,995
94L E280T Auto met, a/c, efs, rfs, 8hs, hww, dst 20T £31,995
92K 300E 24V Auto met, dst 31T £26,995
90H 300TE met, leatherette, hlww, rfs, dst 44T £22,995
93K 320E met, hide, 5 speed auto, a/c, eds, 8h alls, dst .50T £28,995
94L 320E met, hide, 5 speed auto, eds, eps, rhr 15T £33,995
92K 200TE Auto met, esr, rfs, ba, dst 31T £22,995
93K 200TE Auto esr, fcw, rfst 6T £23,995
93K 230TE Auto ww, rfs, rfst 20T £25,995
93K 280TE Auto met, hide, alloys, hsw, dst 30T £29,995
94L E300D Auto met, hide, ww, nsw, a/c, dst 4T £29,995
94M E300TD Auto met, ww, rfs, 8h alloys 3T £30,995
93L E320C Auto met, hide, a/c, ss, 8h alloys, eds 12T £38,995
92K 230CE Auto met, eds, 8h alloys, talp 31T £27,495
91J 300GES Auto met, alloys, esr, dst 41T £19,995
93L 300SE met, hide, 5 speed auto, 8h alloys, dst 15T £40,995
92K 500SE met, hide, 15 ba, dst 27T £47,995
88E 300SL met, dst 38T £23,995
90G 500SEC met, hide, hfs, hcs, full cuchet/et 46T £29,995
88F 500SEC met, hide, eds 68T £23,995
90H 560SEL met, hide, eds x 2, rfs, esp, alloys 44T £25,995
92J 500SEL met, hide, 8h alloys, mds, dst 40T £45,995
92J 500SL met, hide, rcs, asr, hfs, a/c, 8h alloys 46T £49,995
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91H 190 EVOLUTION II BLUE BLACK, BLACK HIDE .16T £34,995
94L C180 Esprit Imp red, flame red cloth, esr, fsw ..14T £19,495
93L C180 Elegance Man Imperial red, black cloth ..12T £19,995
93L C220 Classic Auto M/night blue, grey cloth, esr ..17T £22,995
93L C220 Sport Auto Silver, hide, full AMG, 17" alw 15T £31,995
94M C250D Classic Auto Imperial red, high spec 11T £22,995
91J 190E 2.0 Auto Almandine, cloth, esr, ew, asr ..18T £15,995
92K 190E 2.0 Auto Midnight blue, sportline susp 48T £16,995
93L 190E 2.0 Malachite, grey cloth, s/r, efw, rfs, at ..22T £17,995
93L 200E Auto Almandine red, grey cloth, ew, esr ..22T £21,995
93L E200 Est Auto Almandine, grey cloth, esr, ew ...19T £25,995
94L E220 Cabriolet B/black, mushroom hide, 8aw ...11T £36,995
91H 230E White, blue cloth, esr, ew 37T £16,995
94L E250D Auto Smoke silver, mush.cloth, ww, rhr ..20T £22,995
92K 260E Smoke silver, black tex, 8 ew, cc, rhr, otg ..29T £22,995
93K 280E Almandine, cream cloth, aw, rhr, efb 27T £24,995
91J 300D Man Barolo red, cream cloth, aw 35T £19,995
93L 300D Silver, grey cloth, air con, ww, cc, efb 19T £24,995
94L E300D Auto Nautic blue, cloth, air bag, rhr 28T £25,995
91J 200TE Auto Midnight blue, grey cloth, rfs, esr ..36T £19,995
93K 220CE Blue black, grey hide, 8aw 18T £27,995
92K 300CE 24V Brilliant silver, hide, stone, elc 33T £32,995
92K 320CE Signal red, cream hide, air con, 5Spd, aw ..37T £33,995
89F 300SE Blue black, grey velour, cc, aw, els 41T £16,995
93K 300SL Signal red, cream hide, a/c, rcs, 8aw 14T £47,995
92K 300SL 24V Silver, blue hide, rcs 13T £47,995
89G 560SEL Pajett Red, cream hide, a/c, aw 51T £21,995
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94M C36 Auto THE ULTIMATE SPORTS SALOON ......8T P.O.A.
94L C180 Elegance Auto esr, ew m/rst 12T £21,995
93L C180 Elegance Auto inf, rst 14T £21,595
94M C180 Elegance Auto met, esr, ew lsw, rhr, rst 1T £22,595
94L C180 Elegance Auto esr, ew, lca, inf, rhr, rst 4T £21,995
94M C180 Elegance Auto inf, rhr, lsw, lca, rst 1T £22,595
93L C220 Classic 5 Spd esr, ew, otg, rhr, lca, alls, rst 16T £21,995
94M C250D Elegance Auto esr, ew, hww, rhr, otg, rst ..7T £25,995
91J 190E 2.0 Auto met, esr, ew, abs, lca, alls, dst, dsp 13T £16,995
93K 190E 1.8LE Auto met, esr, ew, 8 hole wal, rst ..20T £17,995
93K 190E 1.8 LE Auto met, wal, esr, ew, 8 holes, rst ..45T £16,995
91H 190D 2.5 5 Speed dst 39T £13,995
94L E220 5 Speed met, lex, d/a bag, rhr, hww, rst 10T £23,995
94L E220 Auto met, inf, lca, rst, a/bag 14T £25,995
93L E220 Auto met, rhr, wal, dst, alarm 14T £24,995
94L E220 Auto lca, dab, inf + at, rst 11T £24,995
94L E220 Coupe Auto met, a/bag, 8 h, wal, tru, lca, rst .10T £30,995
94M E220 Coupe Auto met, 8h, low susp, wal, rhr, cd ..5T £31,995
92K 280E Auto met, lex, 8 holes, otg, dst 20T £24,995
94L E280 Auto met, a/bags, wal, dst 10T £29,995
93L E300D Auto met, 8h, dspk, dst, esr, ew, abs, a/b ..15T £26,995
94L E280 Est Auto rfs, esr, ew, alm, rst 2T £25,995
93K 320CE Auto met, hide, air con, 8 holes, rst 32T £35,995
94L E320 Cabriolet Auto hide, air con, eds, 8 holes 7T £47,995
92K 300SE Auto met, alloys, esr, ew, wal, rhr, otg 35T £25,995
92J 300SL 24V Auto hide, 8 holes, dst 19T £46,995
94L SL320 5 Spd Auto cc, 8 holes, rseat, dst 8T £55,995
90G 420SEC Auto met, hide, els, cc, a/con, alloys, dst ..55T £34,995
92J S500 Auto met, hide, 8 holes, els, eds, dlb, dst 25T £42,995
93L S500 Limo Auto met, hide, 8 holes, wgs, cd, elb 8T £58,995
92J 600SEL Total spec, inc 2 x Sony TV, video, CD 34T £67,995
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Cash deal for victims of L-test strikers

Drivers who had their tests postponed because of the strike by instructors over the past two weeks can apply for compensation from the Driving Standards Agency.

Candidates, some of whom waited six weeks for a slot, were told only on the day their tests were cancelled.

Saab challenge

Saab has introduced a new model at under £14,000 to challenge BMW and Ford's Mondeo. The Swedish company says its 900 2.0i three-door model at £13,995 has anti-lock brakes, driver's airbag, power steering and central locking with deadlocks as standard.

Saloon prices

The new 626 range from Mazda will start at £11,995 for the 1.8i LX four-door saloon. Prices are set to compete head on with Ford's Mondeo and the Vauxhall Cavalier with the 626 range topping out at £18,245 for a 2.0i Executive automatic.

Honda's quest

Honda plans to double imports of cars from its plants in America. The Japanese firm brought in 5,800 Civic, Accord Coupe and Aerodeck models last year but says demand is growing.

Volvo price rise

Prices of Volvo's 850 range are up because of the introduction of side impact airbags. The 850 is the only car on sale in Britain with the side airbag and starts at £17,090.

Serena reduction

Nissan has cut the price of its Serena multi-purpose vehicle by 4.6 per cent to between £13,415 and £15,995. The Terrano II 4x4 also comes down, by an average 2.8 per cent to make the base price £14,795.

An American scheme has helped give car dealers a new lease of life, says **Vaughan Freeman**

Is a buy-back deal right for you? The pros and cons of drive now, pay later

A silent revolution now stealing across the nation's forecourts is turning car-buying habits on their heads. Behind the jargon of the new Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) schemes is a system of car buying which, in America, accounts for four in every five private car purchases.

Launched here just three years ago, it is forecast that they will account for more than half of all new private car purchases in Britain by the end of 1996. Ford started the PCP ball rolling with its Options scheme, closely followed by Choices 1.2.3. from Vauxhall. Today more than 30 manufacturers offer such schemes, all operating on similar lines.

Under a PCP scheme, buyer and dealer agree a contract, usually for 25 or 36 months, and 24,000 or 36,000 miles. The purchaser puts down a deposit, usually 30 per cent of the on-the-road price, and agrees a guaranteed buy-back value for the car (known as the Minimum Guaranteed Future Value — MGFV). At the end of the contract, the customer can either buy the car outright by paying the MGFV, return the car and the keys to the dealer (and so walk away from the deposit) or, the most popular choice, trade the car's MGFV against a replacement vehicle.

David Nash, of Ford Credit, estimates that monthly repayments on a PCP scheme are typically 15 to 20 per cent lower than more traditional financing methods, such as bank loans or HP. This is because the buyer is financing only the difference between the purchase price and the guaranteed buy-back value over the agreed term, and not the car's entire purchase price.

PCP schemes also lift the burden of securing a reasonable second-hand price for the vehicle, by guaranteeing not only the vehicle's future value, but also a secure and trustworthy buyer — the dealer.

Customer satisfaction seems high. VAG, the Volkswagen and Audi importer, says 80 per cent of its buyers believe a PCP was the right decision. Ford calculates 70 per cent of its Options customers renew their PCP by exchanging against a replacement model.

The contracts are not written in stone, and flexible deals can be negotiated. Mr Nash says: "If you go for a high MGFV, that might mean lower monthly repayments, but it will leave you less equity in the car at the end of the contract. You would be better off going for a reasonable MGFV, even if it adds a few pounds to the repayments."

Andrew Wilkinson, editorial director of CAP Motor Research, agrees and urges those considering such schemes not to be seduced by the prospect of driving a new car on the lowest possible monthly repayment. "We see PCPs as just another weapon in a dealership's sales armoury. It needs to be seen, and to be sold, for what it is, which is simply a different form of financing, a form that will suit some motorists but not others. The consumer needs to take the best advice. If in doubt — don't."

For motorists who like changing their new car often, are not bothered by paying for something they do not own, and would anyway be paying finance instalments, PCPs seem a possibly ideal alternative.

Examples of PCP schemes

Mercedes C180 Classic, PCP contract for 36 months and 36,000 miles

On the road price	£18,509
30 per cent deposit	£5,552
Guaranteed future value	£9,387
Cost per month	£236
Total payable	£23,445

Ford Scorpio 2.0 EFi Executive (25 months and 24,000 miles)

On the road price	£17,209
30 per cent deposit	£5,162
Guaranteed future value	£6,640
Cost per month	£327
Total payable	£19,705

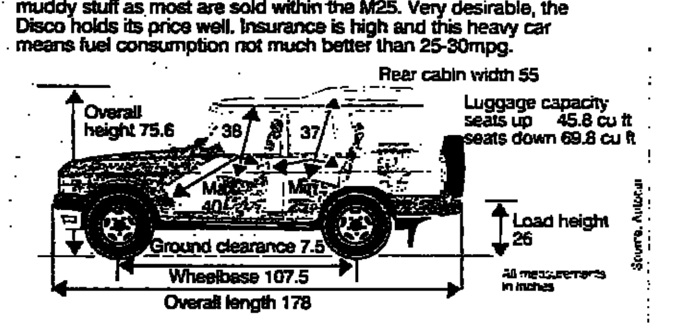
Vauxhall Calibra 2.0i, 8-valve, 3-door (25 months and 24,000 mile contract)

On the road price	£17,501
30 per cent deposit	£5,250
Guaranteed future value	£8,023
Cost per month	£258
Total amount payable	£19,469

USED CAR BRIEF

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TDI

Now five years old, Discovery is the baby Range Rover, cheaper, smaller, but just as effective off-road. Few ever get stuck into the muddy stuff as most are sold within the M25. Very desirable, the Disco holds its price well. Insurance is high and this heavy car means fuel consumption not much better than 25-30mpg.



GOOD NEWS: Superb head room even for those 6ft 5ins and more. The "kick-up" roof line plus sunroof and rear roof windows make for a light and airy feel in the Conran-designed interior. Seven seats make it ideal for bigger families and those used to hauling dogs or outdoor leisure equipment. Commanding ride height gives secure feel in traffic

BAD NEWS: In town the car's height can turn multi-storeys into a no-go zone as the car is just too tall. At speed on open roads Discovery can wallow and lean alarmingly which takes some getting used to, and steering imprecise. Now being targetted by thieves so advanced alarms and engine immobilisers are a must.

LOOK FOR: A full service history. If lowest price is all then the best bet is probably an early V8, although these are thirsty. Admirers insist that while it doesn't give the on-road performance of the V8, the highly-rated 2.5litre turbodiesel is a winner. Since most Discoverys sold new are diesel, the choice used is wider.

TO AVOID: Model fitted with a tow-bar which indicates a hard life dragging horse-boxes out of mired fields. Engines and transmission robust but expensive to repair so watch out for rattles, and ensure all electrics work perfectly. Check heavy rear swing-door has not dropped on hinges.

INSURANCE: Thieves love four-wheel drive cars and insurance rates reflect this. Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 3.5-litre 1990 Discovery will cost a 22-year old male actor living in Brixton, south London, with one speeding conviction, £3,864 a year fully comprehensive, while a 22-year old actress living in the same area wil pay £3,140.

PRICE RANGE: Expect to pay up to £15,000 for a 1991 H-reg five door turbo diesel on 53,000 miles, £17,000 for five door 1992 K-reg turbo diesel on 40,000 miles, and £19,000 for a 1993 K-reg V8 on 19,000 miles.

SAFETY RATING: Land Rover's robust all-steel "ladder" chassis makes for a solid car. Because of its height off the ground, the Discovery tends to roll over and through anything smaller in its path. High ride height means driver can see much further ahead than usual.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT); clutch assembly (exchange) £190; full exhaust £280; rear shock absorber £65; front brakepads £50; alternator (exchange) £90; starter motor (exchange) £170; tyre, £80.

OVERALL: An excellent off-roader, with ample space but pricey to buy and to run. The question is do you really need it? Will a roomy estate or hatch do the job without the penalty of insurance, fuel and running costs? With Discovery, the "car-as-lifestyle" argument is often decisive.

50 BESTSELLING CARS

Make & Model	Retail Price Typical 94 'L' Reg Low Mile Jan-95	Feb-95	% Chge
Ford Mondeo 1.8 LX 5dr HB	10200	9950	- 2.45
Ford Escort 1.6i LX 5dr HB	9025	8895	- 1.40
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.8i LS HB	9450	9150	- 3.10
Vauxhall Astra 1.4i LS (HT) 5dr HB	8575	8225	- 4.08
Rover 214SLi 5dr HB	9700	9295	- 4.17
Ford Fiesta 1.1 LX 5dr HB	6975	6895	- 1.14
Peugeot 405 1.8 GLi 4dr S	8425	8550	1.48
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 LS 3dr HB	6775	6775	—
Peugeot 306 1.4 XL 5dr HB	8750	8625	- 1.43
Rover 414 SLi 4dr S	9625	9095	- 5.50
Rover Metro 1.1 S 5dr HB	6450	6295	- 2.40
Citroen Xantia 1.8i LX 5dr HB	10650	10595	- 0.51
Rover 620 Si 4dr S	13095	13150	0.42
Renault Clio 1.2 RL Prima 3dr HB	6025	6095	1.16
Volkdswagen Golf 1.4 CL 4dr HB	8850	8975	1.41
Nissan Primera 1.6i LX 5dr HB	9175	9275	1.09
Nissan Micra 1.0 L 5dr HB	6295	6250	- 0.71
Renault Laguna 1.8 RN 5dr HB	10100	9995	- 1.04
Peugeot 106 1.1 XR 3dr HB	6600	6875	4.16
Renault 19 1.4 RL Prima 5dr HB	7395	7495	1.35
Rover 820 Si 4dr S	14350	14095	- 1.78
Vauxhall Omega 2.0i CD 4dr S Auto	17950	18295	1.92
Toyota Carina GLi 5dr HB	11200	11395	1.74
Ford Granada 2.0i Ghia 5dr HB Auto	13975	14150	1.25
BMW 320i 4dr	17650	17995	1.95
Alfa Romeo 164 2.0i 4dr	13750	13595	- 1.13
Citroen ZX 104 Advantage 5dr	7750	7750	—
Ford Fiesta 1.4 Si 3dr	7950	7875	- 0.94
Fiat Punto 75 SX 5dr	7095	7425	4.65
Honda Accord 2.0i LS 4dr	13795	14150	2.57
Jaguar 4.0 S 4dr Auto	28250	28750	1.77
Lexus LS400	37500	37000	- 1.33
Mazda MX-5 2dr	14650	14895	1.67
Mitsubishi Shogun 3.5 V6 5dr	29000	28500	- 1.72
Nissan Sunny 1.4 LX 5dr	7850	7995	1.84
Peugeot 605 SLi 4dr	12295	12495	1.62
Proton Persona 1.6 SEi 4dr	9575	9750	1.83
Renault Clio 1.2 RL Prima 5dr	6395	6395	—
Rover 820 Si 4dr	14295	14095	- 1.40
Saab 9000 CSi 5dr	16495	16795	1.82
Seat Ibiza 1.4 GLX 5dr	7575	7695	1.58
Suzuki Vitara JLX Soft top 2dr	9695	9875	1.86
Toyota Corolla 1.3 GLi 5dr	10295	10495	1.94
Toyota MR-2 GT	17595	17895	1.70
Vauxhall Calibra 2.0i 16V	14950	15195	1.64
Volvo 400 1.8Li 5dr	8675	8825	1.73
Volvo 940 SE 4dr	14450	14850	2.77
Volkswagen Passat 2.0 GL 4dr	13195	13450	1.93
Audi 80 2.0 E	12550	12650	0.80
Land Rover Discovery TDi S 5dr	20500	20750	1.22
Mercedes Benz C180 Classic 4dr	17550	17995	2.53

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices
HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on L-reg. low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Motor Research.

THIS could be the year of the nearly new car if manufacturers continue to put up prices.

Ford's new Escort, in the showrooms next month, will be on average two per cent more expensive that the model it replaces. Where Ford goes, Vauxhall is sure to follow and the company announced this week that sticker prices on its cars were going up an average 1.8 per cent.

That will typically put about £100 on the cost of the new Corsa Merit, now £6,995, and the Astra Merit 1.4i three-door, up to £9,795. Vauxhall has softened the blow by cutting the cost of popular options, such as anti-lock brakes which are £100 cheaper at £600.

Dealers believe buyers will resist the price changes and choose one or two-year-old, low mileage models with good histories, warranties and prices lower than new.

Glass's Guide says that dealers regarded used cars as "vital to their business", an indication that the trade does not believe the upturn in new car sales will be very dramatic this year, possible only 40,000 higher at 1.95 million.

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LS400 92J Boston Green Met. Cream Lthr. FSH. 26.000m. Only £25.996. Lancaster 081 985 4444.

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200TE Estate. 89F. 5-speed. White, grey cloth. extras. 80.000 miles. £12.495. Jewsons. Oxford 0865 200570

220 TE Auto. K '93 reg 18.000 miles. Grey met/grey cloth. 7 seater. Arm/head rests. Walnut veneer Elec SR/windows. Driver a/bag. FSH. One owner. £24.495 ono. 0625 522649

230 CE 1988F Signal red. beige leather. ABS etc. FSH. £14.950. 051 922 9595 or 0374 701225.

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300CE 24V. 91J. blk / blk hide, 5 spd Auto, sportline. a/c. cruise control. r/st. 45.000 mls £29.995. Bramshaw 0202 396342

300CE 24 V 91J £29995. Black/Black Hide. 5sp-Auto. Sportline. Air conditioning. Cruise control. Radio/Stereo. 45000 miles. 0202 396342 T

300CE Auto. 90 H. smoke silver. brazil cloth. S/line. 8 holes. etc. 68k. FSH, 2 owners, superb. £17.960 Kings 0602 394803

300 CE Met black Dolphin Grey cloth int FSH 83kmls 2 owners 10 disc CD Exc cond £16,960 071 3867949 or 0494 435360

300D Pearl blue/cream hide. 92 K. walnut. Immaculate, 35k miles, FMBSH. £22.000. 0273 818539 or 0860 700716

300E 24V 91 H 58k FSH a/c cruise, velour trim. elec blind/h/rest astral silver £19.995 px + finance. 0483 473284 / 0252 733456 T

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BAZ 5713	310	SJI 9277	98
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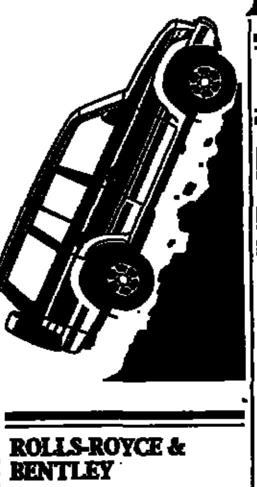

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41 AO	855 F	1 KED	PCG 8
992 AMB	GEI 1	910 KEY	PG 73
AIM 39	1 GGS	1 KFT	83 PJ
BOX 1E	601 GR	KKL 11	93 RHL
4 CBE	GW 9273	1 KKM	RCJ 97
417 CM	1 HAW	42 LI	1 ROX
CLH 493	HPW 8	MB 6275	SPB 1
11 CPS	1 HY	2 MCK	SID 94
D0S 5	JAL 254	MCC 500	SEW 21
4 DGL	JI ESS	53 MPG	SWC 18
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BBZ 282	286 CTA	ACA 435	18 AOR	GI BSY	1 DTL	8 ANJ	8 DEE	8 DOC	6 AT
BJI 9580	LI9 DEB	4885 AT	888 ASH	LI COR	1 FEB	59 ANB	33 DLT	11 EK	6 BR
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Kevin Eason on a move to cut the cost of motoring

RAC urges red card for the Green Card

More than two million motorists will discover this year that the benefits of the European Union (EU) have not reached their insurance premiums. They could be charged up to £45 for a Green Card — which is not even a legal requirement — to extend their insurance cover to the Continent.

Peter Reid, who lives near Sandy, Bedfordshire, checked with General Accident to make sure his comprehensive policy would cover him for three weeks touring in Europe this year. But the bill for a Green Card was £45, in addition to the £365 annual premium on his J-registered Vauxhall Cavalier.

Mr Reid said yesterday: "For 22 days, which is nine per cent of my annual motoring, I am being asked to pay 13 per cent of the cost of my annual insurance. Surely, at a time when we are supposed to be getting the benefits of the Common Market, which means we can travel freely across the borders of 15 nations, the Green Card is just not necessary."

The RAC agrees and is calling on insurers to end confusion over the issue. While some insurers make no charge for issuing Green Card cover, others demand between £20 and £45.

Nigel Richardson, motor sales manager at the RAC, said: "It is high time this antiquated document was done away with. We are no longer talking about a few motorists who want to take their cars abroad but many thousands who believe it is their right to have full cover when they travel to another part of the European Union."

More than two million motorists drove abroad last year and statistics show they risk life, limb and damage to their vehicles when they do so. British holidaymakers are four times as likely to be involved in an accident on Portuguese roads, three times more at risk in Spain and twice as likely to have a crash in France than on familiar British roads.

Motorists like Mr Reid have traditionally believed the Green Card was as essential as a passport. But a conventional UK insurance policy should guarantee minimum legal cover in any EU nation and the Green Card is little more than evidence that the motorist has that cover.

In fact, what Mr Reid and thousands like him pay for is the extension of their comprehensive policies to cover foreign touring or, often, the administration cost of issuing the card. The RAC believes it could be replaced by an annual cover document which would apply in all EU states.

Mr Reid wants an all-in premium payment that would do away with the irritation and expense of having to obtain the card. "If the way forward in Europe is integration, then the Green Card should go," he said.

Threat of pollution greater for drivers

DRIVERS could be suffering more from pollution by sitting in their cars than walking along the street (Kevin Eason writes).

Researchers believe they are exposed to five times more carbon monoxide, eight times more benzene and five times more lead pollution at the wheel than if they were outside their car.

A team from Birmingham University's Institute of Public and Environmental Health has started a three-year study which could lead to huge changes in car design.

They want to find out whether fumes are leaking into the car or whether heating and ventilation systems are drawing in polluting gases from other vehicles on the road.

Professor Roy Harrison, who is leading the research, says: "There is little data in the UK on this. The early evidence is that drivers are breathing in more pollutants but we want to tie down the cause of this. "If exposure is higher in cars, we will want to know why and what can be done to improve that position."

Researchers will use cars specially-equipped with contaminant-measuring devices to compare levels of pollution inside the car with the surrounding environment.

If they discover that fumes from the car's own engine, exhaust and fuel system are penetrating the passenger cabin, the findings could force manufacturers to order major redesigns of their models to seal the driver from invading pollutants.

Golden days: Brando drove the original Thunderbird to an instant sales boom

£7,500 Thunderbird roars back

A NEW generation of the Triumph Thunderbird, the motorcycle that became a cult machine during the rebellious Fifties and Sixties, will appear on the roads of Britain, Europe and America this spring (Ronald Faux writes).

The Triumph factory at Hinckley, Leicestershire, is to produce 3,000 Thunderbirds this year, although the only true resemblance between the new model and Marlon Brando's steed in *The Wild One* is the distinctive "mouth organ" motif on the petrol tank and wire spokes in the wheels.

Eighty per cent of production will go for export with Triumph's 75 agencies in America hoping perhaps to appeal to any Thunderbird nostalgia among bike enthusiasts. Brando drove the original model, a 650cc air-cooled twin, to an instant sales boom in the United States when he appeared astride one as the tough biker gang leader. Other actors who became linked with the sturdy British machines were James Dean and Clint Eastwood who used Triumphs on and off screen. Steve McQueen's attempt to break out of a German prisoner of war camp in *The Great Escape* was on a Triumph, albeit thinly disguised as a German army BMW.

Bruno Tagliaferri, UK sales and marketing manager, says that while history may help to promote the Thunderbird, the new model stands on its own merits. It has a 900cc water-cooled engine with fins on the barrels and cylinder head that suggest traditional air-cooling. There is plenty of bright polish around the engine, balloon silencers and other touches to give the look of a modern classic. Maximum speed is around 120 mph.

The original Thunderbird cost £244.18s. The new version is priced at £7,549 and is launched into an essentially leisure market which last year recorded fewer than 51,000 sales in the UK.

DR DASHBOARD

What to do when the police stop you

Q **I was minding my own business, driving along quite happily when the police pulled me over. Are they allowed to do that?**

A The police must have reason for calling you to the side of the road. Random breath checks, for example, are not allowed so the police should explain why they want a chat. They are either reacting to an emergency, they are worried about your driving . . . or they are mistaken.

Q **I feel intimidated by the sight of the police uniform, especially if it's a motorcycle cop in helmet and leathers. How should I react?**

A Be as obsequious as you can without being ridiculous. No police officer is going to want an argument or extra work, so be cool and courteous.

Q **How can I do that without going over the top?**

A Get out of the car and meet the policeman halfway to establish a rapport . . . except on the motorway. In that case, stay in the driver's seat and open the passenger door to a uniformed patrolman to sit next to you. If anyone in plainclothes stops you, keep doors locked and wind down the window a little until identification is produced.

Q **If I am in an accident and need to make sure that the police know what has happened, what should I do?**

A Remain calm and, if necessary, make notes of what is going on around you. Always carry three things in the glovebox: a pen, paper and a throw-away camera, which costs about £5 and is available from most fast-film shops. Write down the officer's name and number and get the names and addresses of potential witnesses. Note where you are in the road and photograph the scene.

Q **Sometimes, police just seem to stop motorists for the delight of doing it. Should I not just tell them to leave me alone and find some real criminals?**

A Stop right there. That is a sure recipe for trouble which could end in a few of hours in the police station. When a policeman stops you, never retort: "Congratulations officer on such a big catch." If asked why you were driving your car so quickly, never respond: "Because it wouldn't go any quicker," and the question "Have you nothing better to do, like catching burglars?" is the fast route to court. What would you do if you were a traffic cop who had heard any of those replies three hundred times over? Exactly. You would reach for the notebook.

Q **Does that mean I should just let the police charge me on the spot or serve me a fixed penalty fine?**

A Do not accept a fixed penalty notice if you believe you are in the right. Some motorists have been served with £20 fines for using a mobile telephone at the wheel — but that is not an offence. If you believe you are right, refuse the fixed penalty and ask for a full charge to be made against you. That forces the police to compile and produce evidence, which you could also do at the scene and then present your own defence.

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هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES ROAD TEST: **Kevin Eason**, motoring correspondent, puts Ford's redesigned 'nice little earner' through its paces – and judges it a winner

Why it's all quiet on the Escort front

FORD ESCORT
To be fair, it could only improve. Better styling and peerless security package should attract attention but engines remain the same. Long-geared so that slightly underpowered 1.6i which we tested runs happiest around town in second and third with fourth and fifth only needed for cruising. New suspension much improved and handling assured. Best cabin in class, plenty of room and the Ford-branded stereo is the best of the small car bunch. Decent luggage space while the 1.6i's performance of 0 to 60mph in 11.5 seconds and top speed of 110mph respectable although fuel economy of 29.7mpg in town could be better. Revised 1.3i, 1.4i and 1.8i versions follow soon. Prices always competitive — £9,495 to £16,995 (Cosworth unchanged at £26,345) — and discounts will no doubt follow after February 15 launch along with incentives, such as free mobile phone offer. Security which includes alarm and new immobiliser, central locking and high security coded key plus coded stereo, is excellent and leads the pack with Astra. As a result, insurance groups among the lowest at 4 to 20.

Hermann von Helmholtz, the 19th century scientist, would have been pleased if slightly bemused to learn of his contribution to the improvement of Britain's best-selling car.

The German doctor's discovery of how medieval Yugoslavian monks deadened echoes in their church has been packaged into a plastic box and screwed to the engine of the latest Ford Escort. That might seem like a bizarre appliance of science but Dr Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholtz's theory clearly works. The new Escort is *quieter than ever before.*

Ford executives were cut to the quick by jibes that their favourite "little earner" was the noisiest, most unsophisticated car in its class. From the moment Ford relaunched the Escort in 1990, it knew it had dropped a £1 billion clanger and had somehow to rescue Britain's favourite car.

While the competition was racing ahead with cutely-styled, high performing, quiet and comfortable models, Ford was marketing a car with all the style of a miner's clog, with rough-and-ready engines noisy enough to induce tinnitus *in mile-weary* owners. How could Ford have invested so much money and got it all so wrong?

Such a mistake could have carried a huge financial penalty because the small car market (the C-class) accounts for a third of all registrations in Britain, worth about £6 billion in sales annually.

The Escort was a duffer from day one, outpunched by models like the excellent Peugeot 306, Honda Civic, a revised Volkswagen Golf and the Vauxhall Astra. It may have been the perennial best-seller but only because of Ford's mighty marketing machine, which reaps vast sales to company fleets.

However, *Dr Helmholtz* and some radical thinking by Ford's new management team have rescued the Escort and turned it into a model virtually unrecognisable from those sent to showrooms five years ago.

Just how serious the company was about transforming the Escort was underlined by *instructions that led to 400* changes introducing 1,750 new components. Fresher exterior styling is the most noticeable feature, with the new corporate Ford nose, more curves and lots of chrome trim for the top-of-the-range Ghia versions.

Escort owners will barely recognise *one of the most* attractive cabins on sale in any class. There are more comfortable seats, nicely cupped door and seat adjusting handles and a dashboard fascia that is a model for other manufacturers.

Every switch feels good to the touch, the dials are clear and easy to see and an oyster-shaped clock may be a tiny addition but one which adds to the impression that someone has put a lot of thought into the design. The electric mirror adjustment is now on the door in easy reach and there is an internal boot release.

For those who invest in the expensive Ghia versions *comes the magic of Timberlex.* The wooden surround on the fascia may look like wood but it is plastic. I think Ford could happily use their timber substitute as a firewood substitute but many will like it.

It is under the bonnet that Richard Parry-Jones, Ford's British vice-president in charge of small cars, and the good *Dr Helmholtz* have worked a minor miracle. Parry-Jones made what the industry calls NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) a priority in the redesign. That meant changing engine mounts, sealing 18 holes in the bodywork, improving the gearbox, redesigning the exhaust, closing *gaps in the body structure,* improving door seals — and adding the magic of the doctor's resonator.

Helmholtz, a keen musician as well as physicist, found that when monks wanted to improve the acoustics in their church, they used *strategically-placed* empty bottles which set up a counter frequency to cancel out the frequency of the echo.

Ford has simply adapted the principle by adding a resonator, literally a plastic container about the size of a shoe box with strategically-placed holes inside it which, sets up a *frequency to counter engine* noise. It must work because the engines are the same as in the previous Escort but they no longer scream at the driver, even when being pushed hard on winding rural roads. The Escort is one of the quietest cars in its class now, with engine noise suppressed even at motorway speeds.

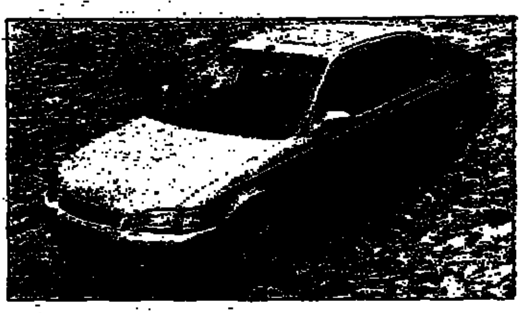
Measures to deal with the thump of the rear suspension as it bounces over potholes have not been entirely successful. The ride still feels soggy compared to the best, but two days hard driving on mountain roads in the south of France proved Parry-Jones's claim that the Escort is a better *handling car than* ever, with tauter steering for accurate turn-in at each corner.

The new Escort is an attractive and enjoyable car and, surrounded by Ford's huge package of incentives, such as its finance deals, free mobile phones and a dealer *on almost* every street corner, it will probably be Britain's best seller again this year.

THE THREE RIVALS TRYING TO [illegible]

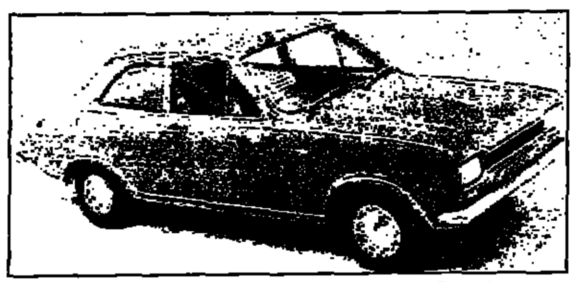
VAUXHALL ASTRA
The Escort's main rival and nearly as much a veteran. Feeling its age now with soggy ride and handling which *are not up with the best.* Noisy engines but 1.6i E-drive economy version is a good buy, offering 33.6mpg in town and 0 to 60mph in 13 secs, top speed 106mph. Kept *ahead of the competition with a terrific security package* — including alarm, immobiliser, deadlocks, built-in theft-proof stereo — and safety among the best with driver's *airbag standard. Prices competitive — between £9,795* and £16,500 — with discounts offered and free mobile phone offer remains incentive. Insurance groups 3 to 13.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF
Once the traditional hot favourite but looking blander than ever. VW has squeezed the character out of the original, *explaining why the car is no longer the darling of the* smart set. No denying the chunky build quality and all-round abilities though. Doors make a pleasant thunk *when shut and everything fits perfectly. Wide range of* engines but the 1.6i is ponderous — 0 to 60mph in 17.6 seconds, top speed 104mph — and not that frugal. *Prices between £9,696 and £17,995 with driver's airbag* and immobiliser on all models plus fiddly detachable anti-theft radio panel. Insurance groups 6 to 16.

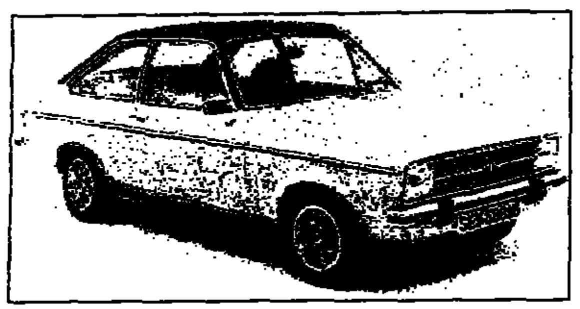


HONDA CIVIC
Pity the Japanese company that wants to make cars more European than the Europeans ... yet never quite *makes it. Made at Swindon, but still as Japanese as* sushi. Ignore top-of-the-range 1.6 models and go for miserly 1.5i VTEC-E for average 45mpg but with *performance chirpy enough for 0 to 60mph in 13 seconds* and top speed of 107mph. Drive and handling among best in class but prices between £11,295 and £15,995 *seem high in this company where discounts matter.* Security includes alarm, immobiliser and coded radio. Driver's airbag standard. Insurance groups: 12 to 16

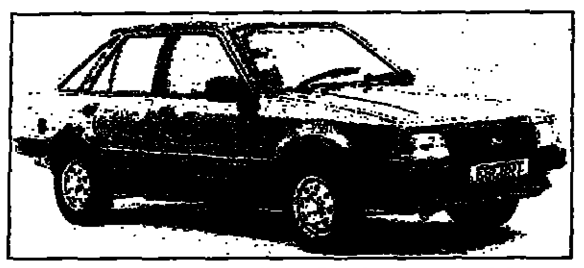
CHANGING FACE OF THE ESCORT



Sixties: the basic Mark I Escort of 1968



Seventies: going upmarket, the 1974 Mark II Ghia



Eighties: sharper lines for the 1980 model

Nineties: the 1990 Mark III was a "duffer"

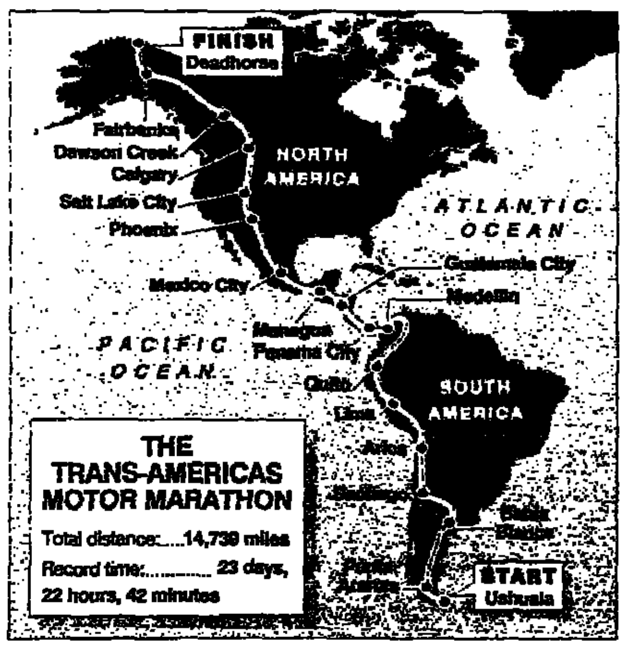
IT seems as much part of the fabric of Britain as fish and chips and *Coronation Street (Kevin Eason writes).* Designed to follow the Anglia, the Escort broke records galore from launch in 1968, overtaking the American Model A as the quickest Ford to sell a million, the world's best-selling car for three years to 1983 and Britain's best-selling model for nine out of the past 10 years, with 144,000 sold last year.

Yet the Escort, made at *Halewood on Merseyside,* has never captured the imagination like other bestsellers. While the Mini and Volkswagen's Beetle were taken up by Hollywood and became as much fashion accessories as cars, the Escort remained simply the workaday transport of millions.

As the company has sold more than 600,000 of the latest Mark III range of Escorts launched in 1990, Henry Ford, the company's founder, would hardly want to complain from his *celestial car factory.*

Just popping out for a spin — back in a month

Four policemen are poised to drive round the globe, reports **Tim Jones**



World-beaters: officers Malcolm Lilley, Gary Birchall, Karl Knights and Paul Grant, *in team jackets from* left, and some of their support staff

Four policemen will on Monday begin the first stage of a year-long motoring marathon they hope will net three world records and raise more than *£50,000 for charity.*

The first leg of their three-stage adventure begins at Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, when they attack the 14,739-mile, 23 day, 22 hrs 42 minutes Trans-Americas record to Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

For Sgt Karl Knights, 34, PC Gary Birchall, 32, PC Paul Grant, 38, and Sgt Malcolm Lilley, 40, the drive is *but one of two warm-ups* for the big one.

There may be anacondas in the rain forests and grizzly bears in the Arctic, but the biggest enemy the men of the South Yorkshire Police expect to encounter is bureaucracy. Any delay in crossing South American borders *could be fatal to their ambitions,* so they have negotiated with every British Embassy along the route and armed themselves with a mini mountain of multi-lingual documents and letters to ease their way.

In September, after their eight-year-old Land Rover 130, in which they will sleep, has been stripped and serviced, they will begin their second training run.

This is an assault on the 11,674-mile Cape Town to *London record,* which currently stands at 14 days, 19 hrs and 26 minutes. The route will take in 22 countries and pass through terrain which will test their vehicle and planning to the limit.

After that, they will embark on the ultimate motoring challenge: an attempt to break the round-the-world record, currently held by three Indians, of 39 days, 7 hrs and 55 minutes.

Until a rule change by the *Guinness Book of Records,* the policemen thought they would never be able to mount a challenge. The current record is for travelling over a total distance of more than the equator's length of 24,901 miles through six continents. *They considered the requirement* to touch tyres on six continents made it a rich man's sport beyond their means. However, new rules mean they can ignore a continent or two so long as *the minimum distance driven* is 18,000 miles and the distance travelled by the vehicle (including any legs undertaken by sea or air transport) exceeds 24,901 miles.

Essentially, any competitor wishing to make the record *attempt can push a knitting* needle through the centre of the globe, drive to the point where the tip emerges and then continue driving until they reach the starting point.

While this makes the record attempt more feasible, *it hardly diminishes the challenge.* In fact, it *has* been made tougher, as the old rules allowed competitors to drive only 1,000 *miles* or so on each continent.

In the case of Sgt Knights and his team, the needle emerged in Wellington, New Zealand, and the route will take them through Europe and the former Soviet Union into Mongolia, China and Malaysia, then from Australia to the half-way stage. They *will journey back via Canada,* the United States and Mexico, then back to New York before crossing the Atlantic to London.

Sgt Birchall said: "These record attempts have been three years in the planning. *We feel confident that with* reasonable luck we will be able to break all three records and present a healthy cheque to the NSPCC."

The four men *must remain* fit and aware throughout. If one of them drops out for any *reason,* he cannot return to drive the vehicle.

They must also observe all traffic laws — any offence invalidates the attempt. After years of planning, a ticket for driving the wrong way down a one-way street in Addis Ababa would be hard to take.

Coach drivers hit at fast-lane ban

A new motorway rule could mean higher coach fares, says **Tim Jones**

AFTER 30 years of driving the length and breadth of Britain, Gerry Rogers fears for his livelihood because of the Government's intention of banning coaches from using the fast lane on motorways.

For Mr Rogers, 54, the decision is inexplicable and liable to make the 60,000 miles he travels each year more dangerous. The move, *announced earlier this week* by the Department of Transport, is being introduced to fit in with a European Union rule which will require all coaches to be fitted with 65mph speed limiters.

Mr Rogers, a driver with the Essex-based King's Ferry company, says the ability to use the overtaking lane provides *him* with an extra margin of safety. "I can think of no good reason for bringing in this measure. They seem to be over-reacting to one or two *incidents and ignoring* the very good safety record of coaches.

"The current rules which allow us to overtake contribute to safety as they lower the risk of frustration coach drivers could feel by being stuck for *miles behind lorries* which are limited to 56mph.

"On some motorways through *hilly* country there are no dedicated slow lanes for lorries, which means that when one lorry tries to overtake another they can be side by side for miles.

"If we are not allowed to overtake there could be a huge tailback, which increases the danger of a bad pile-up in the event of a crash."

Mr Rogers said the new regulations could drive *some* operators out of business. "The extra speed we gain by overtaking lorries *which* are not allowed in the fast lane and passing slow cars is crucial, *for it* enables us to complete long-haul journeys within the legal driving limits, which are about four and a half hours.

"On a journey to Glasgow, for example, I want to know I will be able to pull into a *service station* for my rest period. The alternative would be to pull up on the hard shoulder, which is crazy.

"Also, if coaches are considerably slowed *down then* companies on long hauls will have to think in terms of using two *drivers for* the same journey, doubling costs for accommodation and allowances."

Peter O'Neill, managing director of The King's Ferry, said: "The *politicians* appear to be living in the charabanc age. I suspect the last time *they* were on a coach was when they went on a school outing. The *Government* bangs on about the green benefits of getting people to use public *transport but* appears with this move to be discouraging it."

The Confederation of Passenger Transport said: "Because of this regulation fares may increase while cars will have more freedom to exceed the 70mph limit in the fast lane."

Andrew Pierce plays motoring mind games with Laurie Taylor

'I never dream of cars, I'm too busy grappling with snakes'

Laurie Taylor has inherited one of the hottest seats in broadcasting. He presents *The Afternoon Shift* which replaced the hated *Anderson Country* on BBC Radio 4. Taylor, a prolific author and expert on the criminal mind, will need to utilise his sociological skills to keep his vociferous Middle England audience happy.

How did you first learn to drive?

I didn't. When I was 18, working as a clerk in a Liverpool factory, the sales manager told us there was a salesman's job coming up. Only those with driving licences could apply. I dashed to the nearest driving school, and was told that all I needed was six one-hour lessons at twice the normal price. For that money the instructor would guarantee a pass. He was right. I passed even though I could hardly find fourth gear. Two years later my instructor and examiner were imprisoned for a racket they had been running for years.

What was your first car?

A Riley Kestrel. Lovely. But such defective steering you couldn't even keep it in the right lane going through the Blackwall Tunnel. I gave it away when a friend, Robert, won the Premium Bonds and gave me his new Mini van. I still can't believe such generosity. It was outside my flat with the keys in the ignition just like the game shows.

What car do you drive now?

I gave up my Golf GTi after someone nicked the casing which held the removable radio which I had bought to replace the "thief-proof" radio which I had bought to replace ... As I live close to Russell Square, central London, I walk or cab it. When I leave London I hire and blag corporate rates on big, fat, leather-seated jobs. I take a silly pride in not knowing what I'm driving.

STEERING COLUMN

Do you enjoy driving?

Not much. I only do it to keep others out of the driving seat. I'm so nervous about being a passenger I can only stay in the car by screwing myself up so that I face backwards.

What is your dream car?

I've never had a dream about a car: I'm far too busy grappling with the snakes.

What is your most hated?

The ones which circle Russell Square making it one of London's most polluted places.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Putting my right elbow out of the window on hot days and resting my hand on the roof.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Magic tree deodorants. Why doesn't anyone tell them how horrid they smell?.

What's the most unusual thing you have done in a car?

Impersonated my father for a BBC2 crew to demonstrate his Sunday afternoon tactics of ignoring every suggestion from mother of where to stop. "This looks nice," she'd say. He would slow, and, without looking left or right, accelerate, saying: "Let's try further on." Every Sunday we went home without stopping.

What do you listen to in the car?

Undiluted Miles Davis. Unless my wife, Cathie, sneaks in a James Brown cassette.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

See references to Russell Square.

What is your favourite/ most hated car ad?

I should grow up but I still entertain hopes of enticing Nicole away from her papa.

JAMES MORGAN

Broadcaster Laurie Taylor: "I take a silly pride in not knowing what I'm driving"

COMPETITION

Drive 12 new cars this year

To celebrate the launch of *Car 95*, Hertz and *The Times* offer readers the opportunity to win free use of a new Ford car every month for the next year.

You could be parking 12 different cars in your driveway, working your way through the Ford range from the stylish Probe and the sporty Escort, right, to the spacious seven-seater Galaxy.

Each car can be driven for up to a month and customer service from Hertz, the world's largest car rental company, will guarantee trouble-free motoring.

Today we repeat last week's questions, plus two more. To enter the contest, send your answers on a postcard to: 30 Bouverie Street, London, EC88 4NG. Entries must be received by February 6, 1995. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply

Weekend discount offer

For all readers, Hertz is offering a special discount of up to 22 per cent on weekend rental rates. To qualify, you must book in advance and present the voucher below when you collect your car.

The offer covers rentals from noon on Fridays to 9am on Mondays until March 27, 1995. Rates include unlimited mileage, loss damage waiver, theft protection and VAT.

You must collect and return the car at the same Hertz office, be over 25 and have a full, clean UK driving licence.

The discount offer is subject to availability.

To book, phone 0345-555888, mention *The Times* and quote the code PC67513.

You must remember to take the voucher when you collect the car.

The questions:

1) In which year did Karl Benz create the first motor car by fitting a petrol engine to a three-wheel carriage?

2) In what year did the British Government pass a law which forced drivers to follow a man who held a red flag?

3) How many million Model T cars were produced by the Ford Motor Company in America between 1908 and 1927?

4) In what year was the disc brake introduced by Dunlop in Britain?

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Group R, eg Fiat Cinquecento	***£48.00***	n/a
Group A, eg Fiat Uno	***£51.00***	£58.00
Group B, eg Ford Fiesta	***£55.00***	£65.00
Group C, eg Ford Escort 1.6LX	***£60.00***	£74.00
Group D, eg Ford Mondeo 1.6LX	***£65.00***	£84.00

THE TIMES

This voucher entitles the bearer to one weekend's car rental at the special discount price quoted in The Times Car 95 promotion of January 28, 1995. Conditions as stated in the promotion apply. One application per household. PC code: PC67513.

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Dealers accused of being sexist

A survey of 400 car dealers selling all makes concluded that the majority of sales staff were sexist, aggressive, chauvinist and patronising (Vaughan Freeman writes).

Customers, especially women, were more likely to be terrified or angered than impressed by their patter.

When a couple entered a showroom and the woman asked a question the reply would almost always be directed to the man.

The results of the undercover survey have so worried Honda, which commissioned it, that it has encouraged dealers to spend £1,400 each on a three-day course which will concentrate on developing techniques which will not frighten customers. So far 150 principals from the 173 Honda dealers around the country have accepted the invitation to the retraining sessions.

The Honda initiative is announced after the AA reported that while 60 per cent of motorists were happy to sit in a dentist's chair, only 40 per cent were happy to face a car salesman.

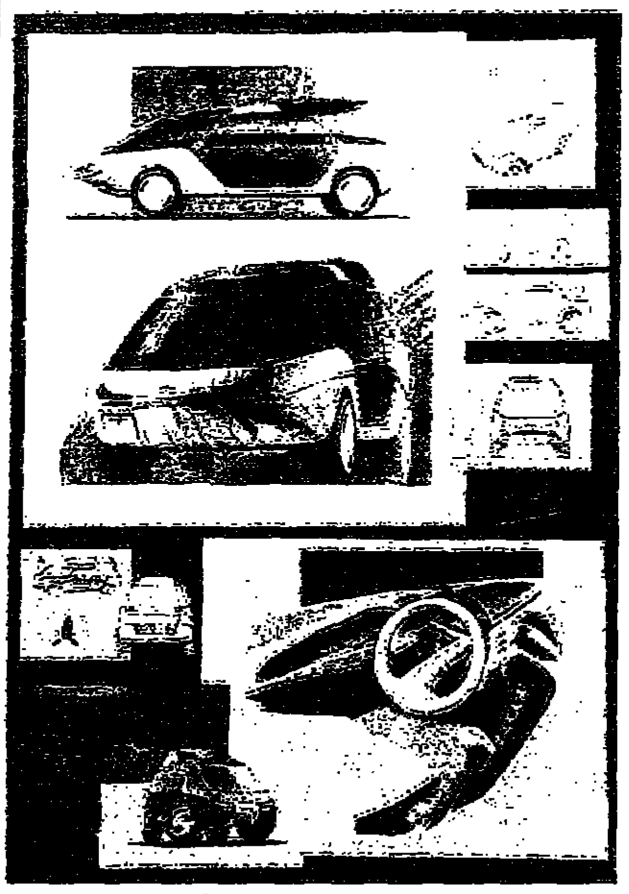
Kenneth Keir, Honda Car Division's general manager, said: "Our survey found car salesmen are chauvinist and very aggressive — aggression being the word most often mentioned by customers, which did not create a comfortable atmosphere. Customers felt pressurised and did not like to haggle."

Part of the retraining is to teach salesmen, most of whom run company cars and have never bought their own vehicles, what it is like to be a customer.

The programme is part of ambitious plans by Honda which has just launched its new Swindon-built Civic five-door saloon, to raise UK sales to 60,000 within four years.

The new Civic is part of Honda's £700 million investment in Britain, and within five years Honda will be building 150,000 Civics and Accord saloons at the plant.

Cheap and cheerful: German student Frank Rimili's two-seater is designed with inexpensive recyclable body panels



The blueprint for Henry Moreshead's 4 x 4 MPV

Is this the road to the future?

THEY might look like space pods to transport Dan Dare home from the moon, but the cars of the future will be as practical as they are fun.

Citroën set students at the Royal College of Art the task of designing the sort of model the French manufacturer could be making in the year 2010.

What they discovered was that the dozen students from all over the world decided that the age of the car was about to take a radical turn. Unable to move freely on congested roads, they would use cleaner fuels to remove pollutants.

Their ideas are worth studying because these students could be the designers of the future who shape the vehicles driven by millions. The RCA has been the source of some of the top designers in the car industry, now working all over the world, such as Peter Horbury, Volvo's British head of design.

The futuristic shapes — on show this week at the college in London — look like fun ideas far removed from the practicalities of daily transport but the students built into their designs considerations such as recyclability, servicing and new fuels, particularly electricity.

Jolyon Yates, 26, from Newcastle, decided that the authorities would not allow cities of the future to be packed with cars. Jolyon designed a hire car for the city, electrically-driven with a removable front section in which are stored all the serviceable components.

Art Blakeslee, Citroën's design director, said: "Today's up-and-coming designers are quite capable of meeting the challenges of an ever-changing motoring environment without losing sight of individual manufacturer identity."

People-carriers line up to invade UK

Seven new models are poised to cash in on the latest car craze, says **Kevin Eason**

The next fashion craze to sweep the motor industry is bigger than a car, less bulky than an off-roader and more versatile than either.

Britain is about to be invaded by the multi-purpose vehicle (MPV), a new generation that promises to transform the morning school run and the annual holiday outing for thousands.

Seven new models will arrive in showrooms this year, bidding to tempt drivers away from their Volvo estates and Land Rover Discoverys and into vehicles which offer the driving characteristics of a car coupled with the load-carrying abilities of a minibus.

Ford will lead the charge but there will be competition from Honda, Peugeot, Volkswagen, Citroën, Chrysler and Fiat for potential sales of 40,000 vehicles — about two per cent of the British market — in 1996. Another three models are being developed, by Mercedes, Rover and General Motors.

Ford wants almost half the sales for its Galaxy but faces tough competition in a sector that has spawned numerous imitators of the model that started it all, the Renault Espace, which has had the market to itself until this year.

Honda's MPV, or people carrier, could be in Britain by June. Called the Odyssey abroad but likely to be the Shuttle here, the vehicle is based on the Accord made by Honda at Swindon.

It will carry six or seven people and come with a specification list that makes it a rival for some executive cars. There will be dual air-conditioning for front and rear passengers and a unique rear seat which folds into the floor to allow bigger load carrying. The £20,000 package is likely to include anti-lock brakes and a more powerful version of the Accord's 2.2-litre engine in 16-valve, 140 brake horse-power form.

Barely will the Shuttle's tyre tracks have cooled before Ford and Volkswagen have their people carriers on sale. The vehicle is being built at a jointly-owned plant near Lisbon which will churn out 600 vehicles a day, virtually identical in Ford or VW form except for the badges.

Ford will get more UK sales than VW because of its immense network of nearly 1,000 dealers and because the Galaxy is an attractive proposition, as a sneak preview showed this week. At 4.6 metres long, it is shorter than a Ford Scorpio and takes about the road space of a Mondeo, yet can carry up to seven people and their luggage.

Ford will launch with three specification versions and three engines: a 1.9-litre diesel and two petrol engines, a 2.0-litre and a 2.8-litre V6 good enough for car-like performance: 0-60mph in 10 seconds and a top speed of 127mph.

Just to show how much these vehicles are tied to the perception that families want cars that double as workhorses and leisure vehicles, accessories will include a fridge, ski racks and a bicycle carrier for inside the MPV.

After Galaxy comes the MPV developed in co-operation by Peugeot, Citroën, Fiat and Lancia. Lancia, which pulled out of Britain last year, is the only one that will not appear here but the other three should be on the market towards the end of the year and present the toughest competition for the rest.

Their vehicle has some unique points, such as seats for up to eight people, which can be switched around into 11 different configurations, and sliding doors on both sides so there are no worries about which side the children get out. Styling will be slightly different but all versions will have Peugeot engines and gearboxes.

Space with style: Honda's £20,000 challenger will rival executive cars for luxury

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